Indiana: 2022 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect.

Victim: 14-year-old boy

DCS involvement at time of fatal event: No open DCS involvement

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 7

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 1

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 1

Circumstances: A 14-year-old boy died from acute fentanyl intoxication. He lived with his mother. On the day of the fatality, the mother noticed the child appeared to be impaired, and she was aware he had been snorting heroin. The child was impaired when he got into his mother's car, parked behind the family home. The mother said she left the child in the car and went inside to go to bed. She said she heard him snoring loudly, through an open window, around 3:30 a.m. The mother did not check on the child until 14 hours later, when she found him deceased in her parked car. The mother never sought treatment for the child, even though she was aware of him using illicit substances for at least two months prior to his death. The mother had a history of substance abuse and refused to submit to a drug screen.