
SECTION 19

UNDERSTANDING CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the type of report most commonly made to Child Protective Services.
2. Identify signs of physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.
3. Identify the person responsible for making a report to Child Protective Services regarding abuse or neglect.
4. Describe what happens when you make a report to Child Protective Services.

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PRESENTER

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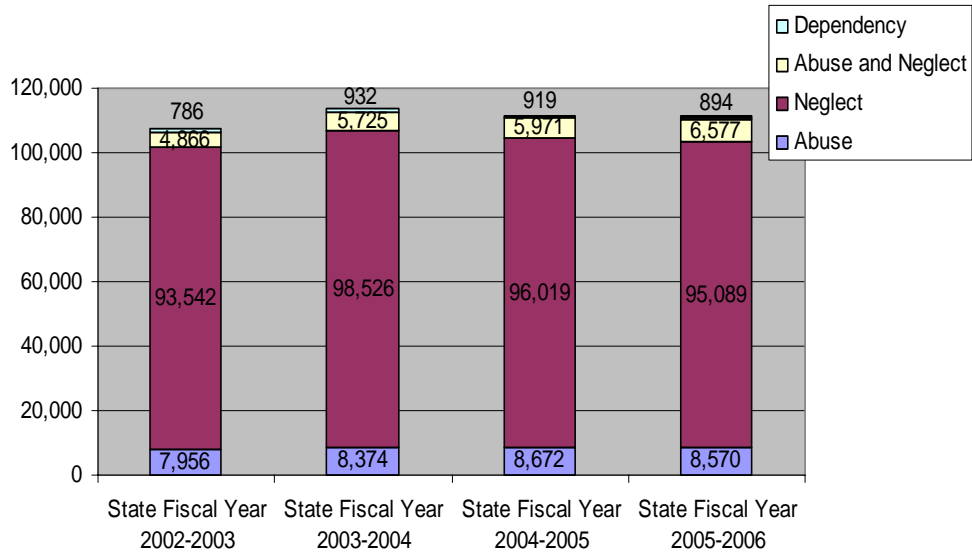
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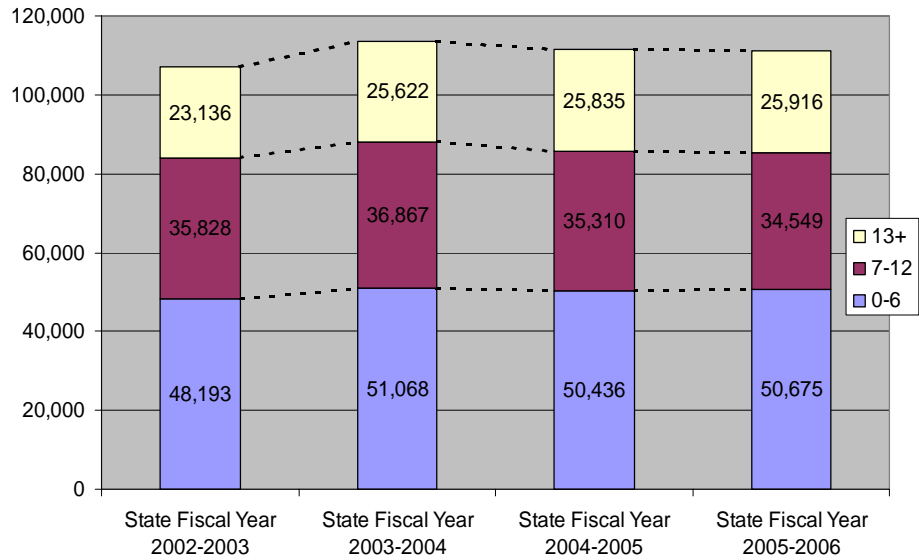
- NC Child Welfare Statistics
- Signs of Possible Child Abuse or Neglect
- NC General Statute Reporting Law
- NC General Statute Definitions of Abuse and Neglect
- Making a Report
- CPS Assessments
- CPS In-Home Services, Foster Care, and Your Involvement
- Resources

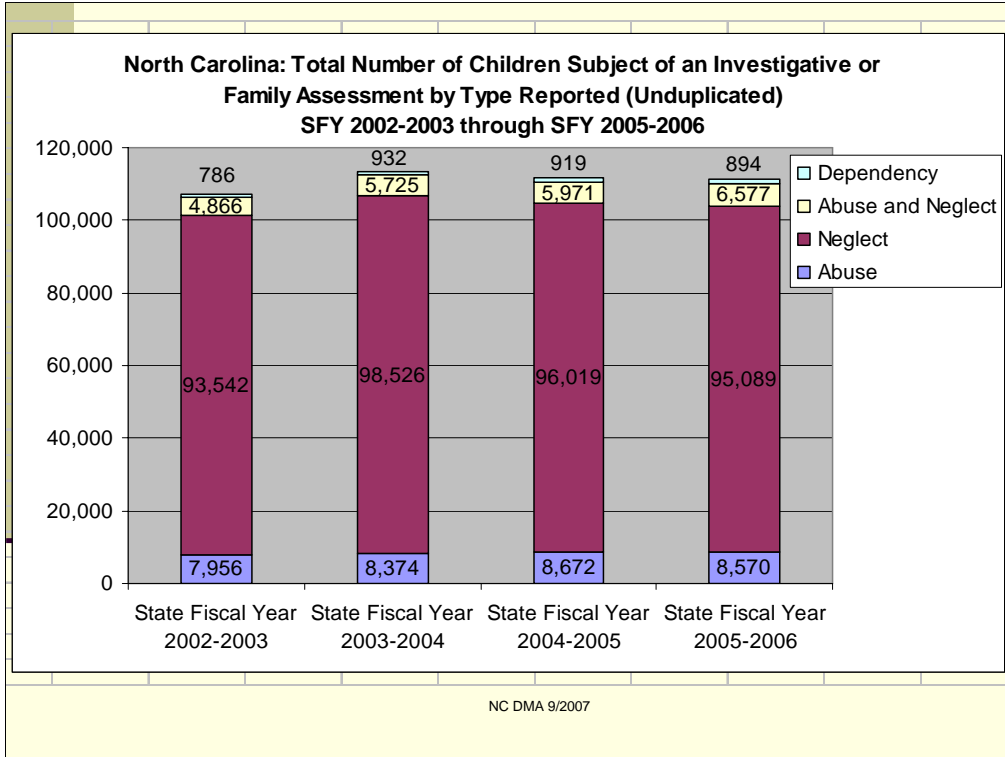
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**North Carolina: Total Number of Children Subject of an Investigative or Family Assessment by Type Reported (Unduplicated)
SFY 2002-2003 through SFY 2005-2006**

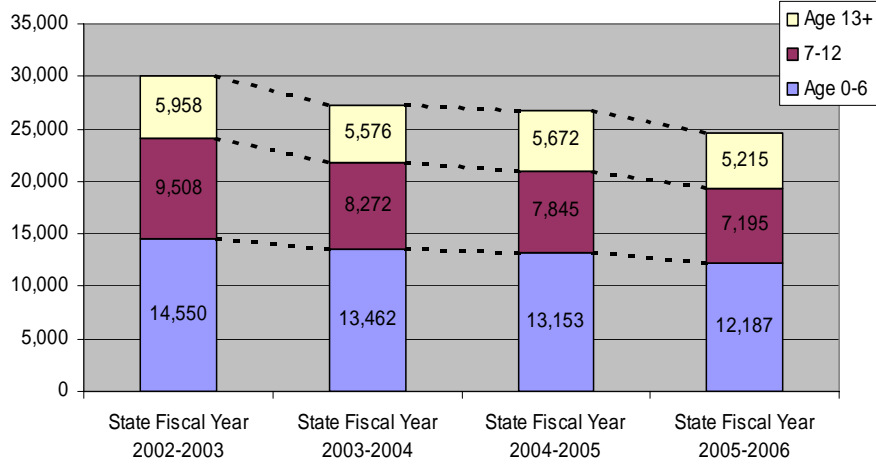


**North Carolina: Total Number of Children Subject of an Investigative or Family Assessment by Age (Unduplicated)
SFY 2002-2003 through SFY 2005-2006**



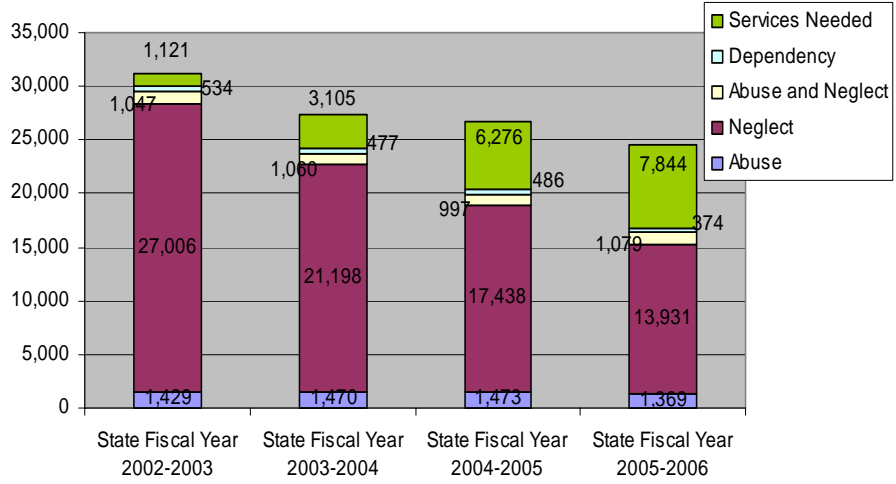


**North Carolina: Total Number of Children Substantiated or Services Needed by Age (Unduplicated)
SFY 2002-2003 through SFY 2005-2006**



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**North Carolina: Total Number of Children Substantiated or Services Needed by Type Found (Unduplicated)
SFY 2002-2003 through SFY 2005-2006**



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SIGNS OF POSSIBLE PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Unexplained bruises, welts, human bite marks, bald spots
- Unexplained burns, cigarette or immersion
- Unexplained fractures, lacerations, or abrasions
- Unduly frightened of parent/caretaker

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SIGNS OF POSSIBLE NEGLECT

- Abandonment, unattended medical needs, consistent lack of supervision, consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, and poor hygiene
- Beggars or steals food
- Frequently absent from school
- Falls asleep in class, regularly displays fatigue

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SIGNS OF POSSIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE

- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Bruises or bleeding in the external genitalia
- Venereal disease
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections
- Engages in sexual activity not appropriate for the child's age
- Has detailed and sophisticated understanding of sexual behaviors
- Suffers from sleep disturbances, nightmares, bed-wetting

Older children may display:

- Self-injurious behaviors such as self-mutilation, suicide attempts, prostitution, and running away
- Show signs of depression
- Exhibit delinquent or aggressive behaviors

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SIGNS OF POSSIBLE EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Speech disorders
- Delayed physical and or emotional development
- Substance abuse
- Habit disorders, antisocial, destructive neurotic traits, behavioral extremes, delinquent behavior

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NC GENERAL STATUTE DUTY TO REPORT MALTREATMENT

N.C.G.S. § 7B-301

Any person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent, as defined by G.S. 7B-101, or has died as the result of maltreatment, shall report the case of that juvenile to the director of the department of social services in the county where the juvenile resides or is found. The report may be made orally, by telephone, or in writing. The report shall include information as is known to the person making it including the name and address of the juvenile; the name and address of the juvenile's parent, guardian, or caretaker; the age of the juvenile; the names and ages of other juveniles in the home; the present whereabouts of the juvenile if not at the home address; the nature and extent of any injury or condition resulting from abuse, neglect, or dependency; and any other information which the person making the report believes might be helpful in establishing the need for protective services or court intervention. If the report is made orally or by telephone, the person making the report shall give the person's name, address, and telephone number. Refusal of the person making the report to give a name shall not preclude the department's assessment of the alleged abuse, neglect, dependency, or death as a result of maltreatment.

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NC GENERAL STATUTE IMMUNITY

N.C.G.S. § 7B-309

Anyone who makes a report pursuant to this Article, cooperates with the county department of social services in a protective services assessment, testifies in any judicial proceeding resulting from a protective services report or assessment, or otherwise participates in the program authorized by this Article, is immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed for that action provided that the person was acting in good faith. In any proceeding involving liability, good faith is presumed.

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DEFINITIONS

N.C.G.S. § 7B-101

Abused Juvenile - Any juvenile less than 18 years of age whose parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker:

- Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the juvenile a serious physical injury by other than accidental means;
- Creates or allows to be created a substantial risk of serious physical injury to the juvenile by other than accidental means;
- Uses or allows to be used upon the juvenile cruel or grossly inappropriate procedures or cruel or grossly inappropriate devices to modify behavior;
- Commits, permits, or encourages the commission of (several sexual offenses listed in statute);
- Creates or allows to be created serious emotional damage to the juvenile; serious emotional damage is evidenced by a juvenile's severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior toward himself or others; or
- Encourages, directs, or approves of delinquent acts involving moral turpitude committed by the juvenile.

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DEFINITIONS, CONT'D.

Neglected Juvenile

A juvenile who does not receive proper care, supervision, or discipline from the juvenile's parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker; or who has been abandoned; or who is not provided necessary medical care; or who is not provided necessary remedial care; or who lives in an environment injurious to the juvenile's welfare; or who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of law. In determining whether a juvenile is a neglected juvenile, it is relevant whether that juvenile lives in a home where another juvenile has died as a result of suspected abuse or neglect or lives in a home where another juvenile has been subjected to abuse or neglect by an adult who regularly lives in the home.

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MAKING A REPORT

- Contact the county DSS where the child resides (If not sure which county that is, call any county DSS and they will direct the report in the right direction).
- The intake social worker will go over the Structured Intake Form to document the information.
- The county DSS will make the decision as to if the report meets the definition of abuse, neglect, and or dependency.
- If the report does meet the definition, the county DSS will assign a response time for initiating a CPS assessment.
- This assigned response time may be immediate, within 24 hours, or within 72 hours.

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CHOICE OF TWO APPROACHES TO CPS ASSESSMENTS

Investigative Assessment

More traditional or forensic

Appropriate for reports alleging any type of abuse, abandonment, child fatality when there are surviving children in the family, a child in the custody of DSS, a child taken into protective custody by a physician or law enforcement, the medical neglect of disabled infants with life threatening conditions, suspected or confirmed presence of a methamphetamine lab where children are exposed, a child less than a year who has been shaken or subjected to corporal punishment.

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CHOICE OF TWO APPROACHES TO CPS ASSESSMENTS, CONT'D.

Family Assessment

A family-centered approach that is much less adversarial, “nothing about us, without us.”

Appropriate for neglect reports other than those specifically mentioned needing an investigative assessment.

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WHAT A CPS ASSESSMENT MEANS TO YOU

During either Assessments, a CPS worker will contact collateral information sources identified by the family or named at the time of the report as a person having relevant information to the assessment.

During a Family Assessment, it is expected that the professional service provider and agencies will share their concerns about the family, with the family themselves.

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CASE DECISION

After a CPS assessment is completed within 30-45 days, a shared case decision will be made between the worker, supervisor, and or worker unit team members as to whether to close the case as unsubstantiated, no services needed, services provided no longer needed, services recommended, or to provide CPS In-Home Services by substantiating neglect/abuse or find services needed for the family.

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CPS IN-HOME SERVICES

- Works with the family to identify the underlying causes of abuse, neglect or dependency and provides support to the family in formulating an effective plan for change.
- Coordinates needed services to reduce the risk of child maltreatment.
- Monitors and evaluates the progress of the family making changes.

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FOSTER CARE

Any time during the CPS Assessment or during the provision of CPS In-Home Services, a decision could be made to bring the child into the custody of the county if the county DSS believes the risk of maltreatment to the child is too high to remain in the home.

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HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED IN CPS IN-HOME SERVICES OR FOSTER CARE

You may have been identified by the family as a person that is committed to the child and family, invested in helping them change. You may be asked by the family/social worker to be part of a Child and Family Team Meeting or a Permanency Planning Action Team (for foster care cases).

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CHILD AND FAMILY TEAMS AND PERMANENCY PLANNING TEAMS

- A CFT focuses on recognizing the strengths and needs of the family. It identifies supports for the family to prevent future child maltreatment.
- A PPT facilitates community service provisions with the family to meet individual needs and ultimately creates a permanency plan for the child to hopefully return home.

BOTH are completed with the family!

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RESOURCES

DSS Home Page

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/>

Prevent Child Abuse NC

<http://www.preventchildabusenc.org/>

NC General Assembly

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl>

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SUMMARY

- Neglect is the most frequent type of complaint to Child Protective Services.
- Signs of possible physical abuse include: unexplained bruises, welts, human bite marks, bald spots, burns, fractures, lacerations, or abrasions; undue fear of parent or caretaker
- Signs of possible neglect include: abandonment, unattended medical needs, consistent lack of supervision, consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, and poor hygiene; begging or stealing food; frequent absences from school; falling asleep in class, regularly fatigued .

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SUMMARY, CONT'D.

- Signs of possible sexual abuse include: torn, stained, or bloody underwear; pain or itching in genital area; difficulty walking or sitting; bruises or bleeding in the external genitalia; sexually transmitted disease; frequent urinary tract or yeast infections; engaging in sexual activity not appropriate to the child's age; detailed and sophisticated understanding of sexual behavior; sleep disturbance, nightmares, and bed-wetting; self-injurious behaviors, depression, and delinquent or aggressive behaviors.

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SUMMARY, CONT'D.

- Signs of possible emotional abuse include: speech disorders, delayed physical or emotional development; substance abuse; and habit disorders , antisocial behaviors, destructive tendencies, neurotic traits, behavioral extremes, and delinquent behavior
- Any person who suspects abuse or neglect is obligated to make a report to Child Protective Services. The person making the report is immune from any civil or criminal liability.

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SUMMARY, CONT'D.

Two types of CPS assessment:

- Family – most allegations of neglect

- Investigative – abuse, more serious neglect, abandonment

Types of decisions: unsubstantiated, no services needed, services provided no longer needed, services recommended, CPS In-Home Services, foster care

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

Please make sure you can answer the following questions before you proceed to the next section.

1. Name at least three signs of possible physical abuse.
2. Name at least three signs of possible emotional abuse.
3. Name at least three signs of possible sexual abuse.
4. Name at least three signs of possible neglect.

REVIEW ANSWERS

1. Signs of possible physical abuse include: unexplained bruises, welts, human bite marks, bald spots, burns, fractures, lacerations, or abrasions; undue fear of parent or caretaker
2. Signs of possible emotional abuse include: speech disorders, delayed physical or emotional development; substance abuse; and habit disorders , antisocial behaviors, destructive tendencies, neurotic traits, behavioral extremes, and delinquent behavior
3. Signs of possible sexual abuse include: torn, stained, or bloody underwear; pain or itching in genital area; difficulty walking or sitting; bruises or bleeding in the external genitalia; sexually transmitted disease; frequent urinary tract or yeast infections; engaging in sexual activity not appropriate to the child's age; detailed and sophisticated understanding of sexual behavior; sleep disturbance, nightmares, and bed-wetting; self-injurious behaviors, depression, and delinquent or aggressive behaviors.
4. Signs of possible neglect include: abandonment, unattended medical needs, consistent lack of supervision, consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, and poor hygiene; begging or stealing food; frequent absences from school; falling asleep in class, regularly fatigued .