

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Non-Custody Child Deaths

Quarter 4 2013 (October 1 st – December 31 st , 2013)			
Deaths			
Total Number	57		
Allegations*			
	Number	Percent	
Neglect	52	91%	
Abuse	5	9%	
		100%	
Classifications**			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	4	7%	
Unsubstantiated	27	47%	
Pending	25	44%	
Unable to Complete	1	2%	
		100%	
Historical Contact Information***			
	Number	Percent	
Previous History	37	65%	
No Previous History	20	35%	
		100%	
<p>* Investigations into a child's death are opened for either allegations of abuse or neglect.</p>			
<p>** There are four types of classifications. Substantiated means that there is a preponderance of evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. Unsubstantiated means that there is not enough evidence to sustain the allegation. Pending classification refers to cases that have not yet closed. Finally, those classified as Unable to Complete still require additional information before the department can classify a case.</p>			
<p>*** Previous History is defined as any Tennessee DCS contact with a child or family occurring within 3 years of the child's death or near death, as documented in the Department's SACWIS reporting system.</p>			
<p>Note: Effective January 1, 2014, the term "substantiated" replaced "indicated," and the term "unsubstantiated" replaced "unfounded." The change in wording does not impact the level of proof needed to substantiate.</p>			

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