

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Child Custody Near Deaths

Calendar Year 2020 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2020)		
Custody Near Deaths*		
Total Number	1	
<p>In 2020, 1 near death occurred while the child was in custody.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child sustained critical, life-threatening injury as the result of lack of supervision, medical maltreatment, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. 		
<p>* A custody near death is defined as any child in the state of Tennessee who is in DCS custody who has a serious or critical medical condition resulting from child abuse or child sexual abuse, as reported by a physician who has examined the child subsequent to the abuse. This is defined in TCA 37-5-107. The Department has elected to exceed the statutory definition to include more situations as near deaths. As such, the Department will record a near death for a child in custody if the allegation of abuse or neglect is substantiated and a physician reviews the case and determines the child was in a serious or critical medical condition.</p>		

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