

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

Calendar Year 2021 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2021)			
Near Deaths*			
Total Number	43		
Historical Contact Information**			
	Number	Percent	
Previous History	24	56%	
No Previous History	19	44%	
		100%	
* A non-custody near death is defined under TCA 37-5-107 as any child in the state of Tennessee who is not 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. 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 when an allegation of abuse or neglect against a child is substantiated and a physician reviews the case and determines the child was in a serious or critical medical condition.			
** 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.			

Posted: 6/3/25