

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

Calendar Year 2023 (January 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023)			
Deaths			
Total Number	178		
Classifications*			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	25	14%	
Unsubstantiated	59	33%	
Pending	94	53%	
Unable to Complete	0	0%	
		100%	
Historical Contact Information**			
	Number	Percent	
Previous History	111	62%	
No Previous History	67	38%	
		100%	
<p>* There are four types of classifications. Substantiated means that there is a preponderance of evidence that abuse occurred. Unsubstantiated means that there is not enough evidence to sustain the allegation. Pending classification refers to cases that have not yet closed. Finally, Unable to Complete is an investigation that cannot be concluded (Policy 14.7, Section C.6).</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 <b>"substantiated"</b> replaced "indicated," and the term <b>"unsubstantiated"</b> replaced "unfounded." The change in wording does not impact the level of proof needed to substantiate.</p>			

Revised: 7/5/24