

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

| Calendar Year 2025 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2025) | | | |
|---|--------|---------|--|
| Deaths | | | |
| Total Number | 211 | | |
| Classifications* | | | |
| | Number | Percent | |
| Substantiated | 23 | 11% | |
| Unsubstantiated | 107 | 51% | |
| Pending | 81 | 38% | |
| Unable to Complete | 0 | 0% | |
| | | 100% | |
| Historical Contact Information** | | | |
| | Number | Percent | |
| Previous History | 113 | 54% | |
| No Previous History | 98 | 46% | |
| | | 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 "substantiated" replaced "indicated," and the term "unsubstantiated" replaced "unfounded." The change in wording does not impact the level of proof needed to substantiate.</p> | | | |

Posted: 4/6/26