

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

Quarter 1 2026 (January 1 st – March 31 st , 2026)			
Deaths			
Total Number	59		
Classifications*			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	1	2%	
Unsubstantiated	6	10%	
Pending	52	88%	
Unable to Complete	0	0%	
		100%	
Historical Contact Information**			
	Number	Percent	
Previous History	32	54%	
No Previous History	27	46%	
		100%	
<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, 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>			

Updated: 7/2/26