

Definition

Investigations is the number of allegations of child neglect referred to, and investigated by, the Department for Community Based Services for the reported year. *Percent substantiated* is the percent of investigations for neglect where the Department for Community Based Services determined that neglect occurred.

Data in context

All children need food, shelter, clothing, and nurturing care for healthy development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define child neglect as “failure by a caregiver to meet a child’s basic physical, emotional, medical/dental, or educational needs.”¹ Neglect may cause children to have trouble trusting others, delayed or hindered physical growth, and cognitive delays.^{2,3}

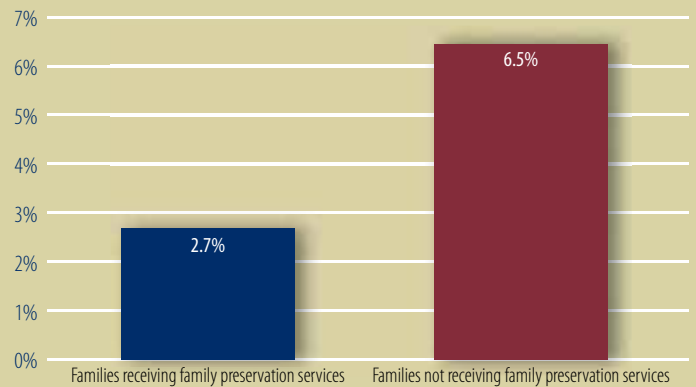
In many cases, barriers keep parents from meeting the basic needs of their children. Neglect often coincides with poverty, making it confusing to distinguish the two.⁴ Often parents have the right intentions but lack the resources to provide for their families. Because poverty disproportionately affects families of color, the intersection of poverty and neglect may lead to disparate treatment of children and families of color.⁵ Support services can help keep families together while providing for basic needs. In Kentucky, current efforts to support families include family preservation programs to assist families at risk of having their child removed from their care, Family Resource and Youth Service Centers that can connect families to resources they need, and subsidized housing programs for homeless families. The Race, Community and Child Welfare Initiative has also been working to specifically address the overrepresentation of youth of color in the child welfare system.⁶

Neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment nationwide, affecting 59 percent of victims in federal fiscal year 2007.⁷ National data indicate that among Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White children, between 55 and 60 percent of child victims experience neglect.⁸ Sadly, neglect can be so severe that it results in a child’s death. Neglect was the sole cause of death in 34 percent of child fatalities in the United States in 2007.⁹

In 2008, there were 37,679 investigations for neglect in Kentucky, an increase of 21 percent from 2003. The number of investigations with neglect substantiated increased to 13,019, a 10 percent increase from 2003.¹⁰ These increases in investigations and substantiations parallel the overall trend of more Kentucky children involved in maltreatment investigations and substantiations during that period.¹¹ The proportion of investigations where neglect was substantiated decreased from 38 percent in 2003 to 35 percent in 2008.

From 2003 to 2008, the number of investigations of neglect decreased in 41 counties. In 2008, the number of investigations of neglect ranged from none in Robertson County to more than 1,000

Percent of Subsequent Substantiated Referrals 6 Months After Services Completed, FY 2007



Participants in family preservation programs were less likely to experience future substantiations of abuse or neglect compared to non-participants, despite having higher risks at the time of initial referral than non-participants.

Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services (2008). *Kentucky’s Family Preservation Program: Comprehensive Program Evaluation*. Available at <http://chfs.ky.gov>.

in Boyd, Fayette, Floyd, Jefferson, Kenton, and Pike Counties.

The proportion of investigations with substantiated neglect was less than 20 percent in eight counties but exceeded 70 percent in Nelson and Trigg Counties. The percent of investigations with substantiated neglect decreased in 72 counties from 2003 to 2008. The rate of investigations with substantiated neglect increased by more than one third in Nelson County but decreased by more than one third in 27 other counties during that time period.

Approximately 333,000 child victims received in-home services nationwide in FFY 2007.¹² Additional support is needed to keep children safe in their homes and prevent the need for out-of-home placement. Communities can offer concrete assistance to help families develop protective factors. These resources include housing and transportation; supportive social networks through community gatherings; parenting education; and additional support services during emergencies such as loss of a job.¹³ In Kentucky, family preservation programs work with families at risk of having a child removed, connecting them to community services and helping them improve their parenting skills. Family preservation services are more cost effective than placing a child in out-of-home care and avoid the trauma of removal, yet many eligible families do not receive these services.¹⁴ While family preservation services exist in every region of the state, their availability has not kept pace with the need for such services.

Data Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

Data Note: Data for 2003 may differ from previous versions of the Kentucky KIDS COUNT book due to more recent data entry or modifications to the data due to appeals or other court actions.

Rate Calculation: (number of investigations with neglect substantiated in 2003 * 100) / (number of investigations of neglect in 2003)
 (number of investigations with neglect substantiated in 2008 * 100) / (number of investigations of neglect in 2008)

INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD NEGLECT

(number & percent substantiated)

	2003		2008			2003		2008	
	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated		Number of investigations	Percent substantiated	Number of investigations	Percent substantiated
Kentucky	31,090	38	37,679	35					
Adair	172	34	130	21	Knox	185	32	286	36
Allen	107	48	145	41	LaRue	69	25	166	48
Anderson	90	53	120	36	Laurel	514	38	703	38
Ballard	5	0	15	20	Lawrence	174	36	252	53
Barren	545	47	661	28	Lee	115	43	98	26
Bath	152	38	195	24	Leslie	172	30	215	20
Bell	261	39	404	29	Letcher	540	34	532	39
Boone	210	38	370	23	Lewis	72	44	132	47
Bourbon	152	23	139	27	Lincoln	227	30	211	13
Boyd	473	26	1,147	20	Livingston	45	38	59	44
Boyle	170	33	289	34	Logan	60	67	131	45
Bracken	41	32	97	14	Lyon	37	59	91	38
Breathitt	272	27	366	22	McCracken	409	42	378	60
Breckinridge	100	52	114	26	McCreary	209	47	203	39
Bullitt	221	52	232	28	McLean	83	52	91	35
Butler	33	42	90	47	Madison	479	29	611	34
Caldwell	39	62	29	66	Magoffin	313	37	342	37
Calloway	135	39	148	44	Marion	131	42	125	38
Campbell	454	22	369	47	Marshall	89	45	137	47
Carlisle	71	38	56	14	Martin	420	32	478	46
Carroll	138	34	98	30	Mason	39	44	201	29
Carter	399	26	607	38	Meade	77	56	140	23
Casey	84	38	121	12	Menifee	49	24	108	39
Christian	478	32	407	37	Mercer	231	33	175	25
Clark	159	45	245	40	Metcalfe	116	56	98	41
Clay	258	41	558	34	Monroe	77	29	85	39
Clinton	71	27	127	19	Montgomery	123	51	395	24
Crittenden	64	33	76	24	Morgan	114	32	164	20
Cumberland	17	18	29	21	Muhlenberg	159	55	125	48
Daviess	969	41	914	41	Nelson	179	32	141	73
Edmonson	107	49	105	39	Nicholas	38	37	31	19
Elliott	72	57	172	44	Ohio	183	54	167	46
Estill	195	33	170	24	Oldham	55	36	169	22
Fayette	1,720	35	2,125	32	Owen	62	27	69	41
Fleming	113	45	191	26	Owsley	42	43	232	27
Floyd	792	24	1,101	30	Pendleton	79	35	85	46
Franklin	351	46	272	24	Perry	580	43	697	24
Fulton	81	42	57	25	Pike	940	31	1,175	31
Gallatin	45	24	44	52	Powell	152	20	143	42
Garrard	63	30	153	58	Pulaski	646	30	626	25
Grant	198	30	143	43	Robertson	17	41	0	*
Graves	254	47	208	38	Rockcastle	131	60	180	36
Grayson	150	27	135	24	Rowan	260	38	385	25
Green	85	58	124	34	Russell	108	31	161	16
Greenup	336	26	379	28	Scott	210	29	240	28
Hancock	43	65	38	47	Shelby	440	35	294	24
Hardin	622	34	531	23	Simpson	79	29	113	51
Harlan	284	30	374	34	Spencer	36	39	50	42
Harrison	86	16	85	15	Taylor	191	28	259	29
Hart	99	29	135	50	Todd	42	57	50	56
Henderson	408	45	313	36	Trigg	35	43	37	76
Henry	29	31	131	42	Trimble	50	40	66	29
Hickman	13	38	20	70	Union	119	39	102	53
Hopkins	244	48	252	38	Warren	668	41	648	42
Jackson	92	47	138	41	Washington	72	28	225	20
Jefferson	4,273	47	5,008	45	Wayne	112	43	248	32
Jessamine	414	33	370	32	Webster	66	38	80	48
Johnson	857	31	831	24	Whitley	430	43	464	29
Kenton	822	40	1,176	41	Wolfe	114	37	205	23
Knott	287	38	411	32	Woodford	151	42	115	25

* County had no investigations for neglect.