



Mandated Reporter Training

Minnesota Statute §260E.06

Reporting of Child Maltreatment

(rev. March 2024)

Why report?

01

To prevent harm to a child

02

To assist families in receiving services

03

It's the law!

Reports Received

Minnesota

77,411 child maltreatment reports received

39% of reports were screened in for assessment or investigation
61% were screened out

Year	Total reports	Screened in	Screened out
2023	77,411	29,954	47,457

Washington County

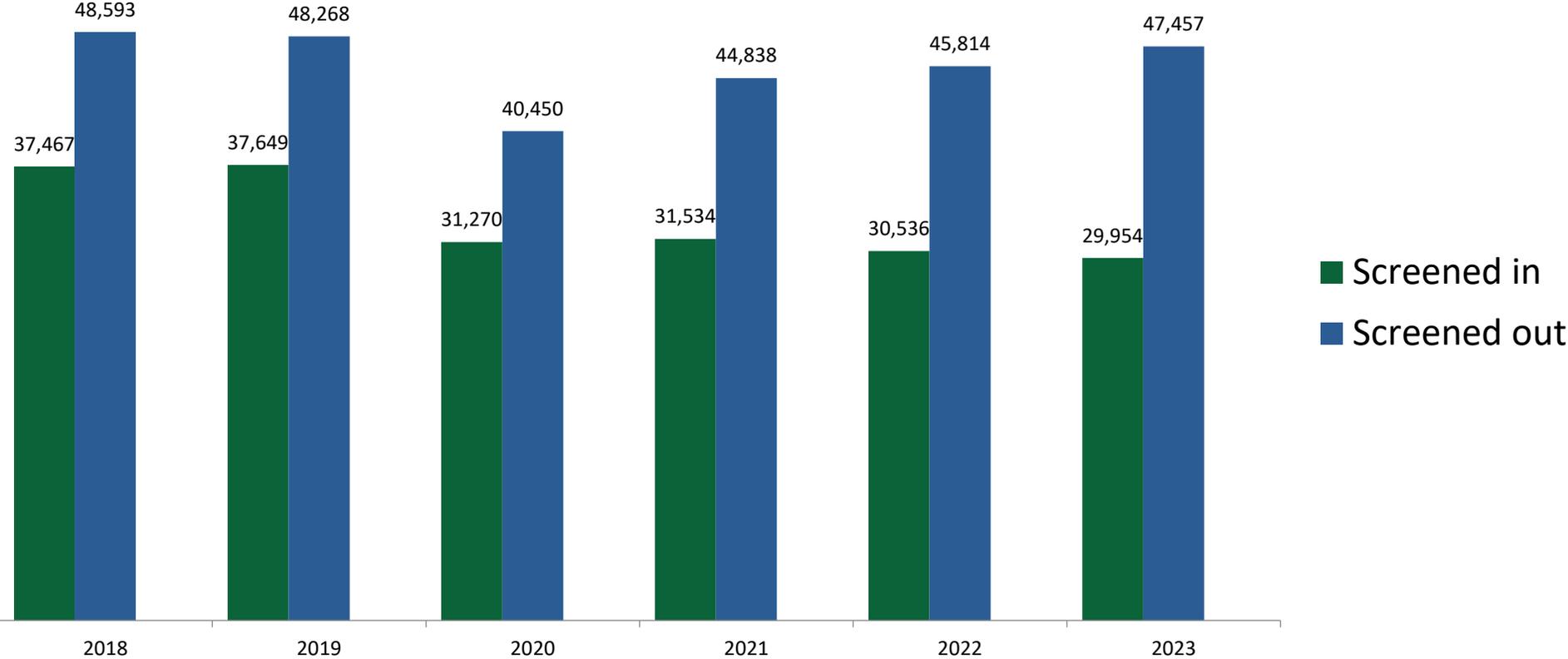
2,410 child maltreatment reports received

25% of reports were screened in for assessment or investigation
75% were screened out

Year	Total reports	Screened in	Screened out
2023	2,222	566	1,656

Reports Received

MN, 2018-2023



Cases Assigned

Minnesota

29,955 investigations and assessments opened

64% assigned for Family Assessment
34% assigned for Family Investigation
2% assigned for Facility Investigation

Year	Total Screened in	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation
2023	29,955	19,154	730	10,068

Washington County

566 investigations and assessments opened

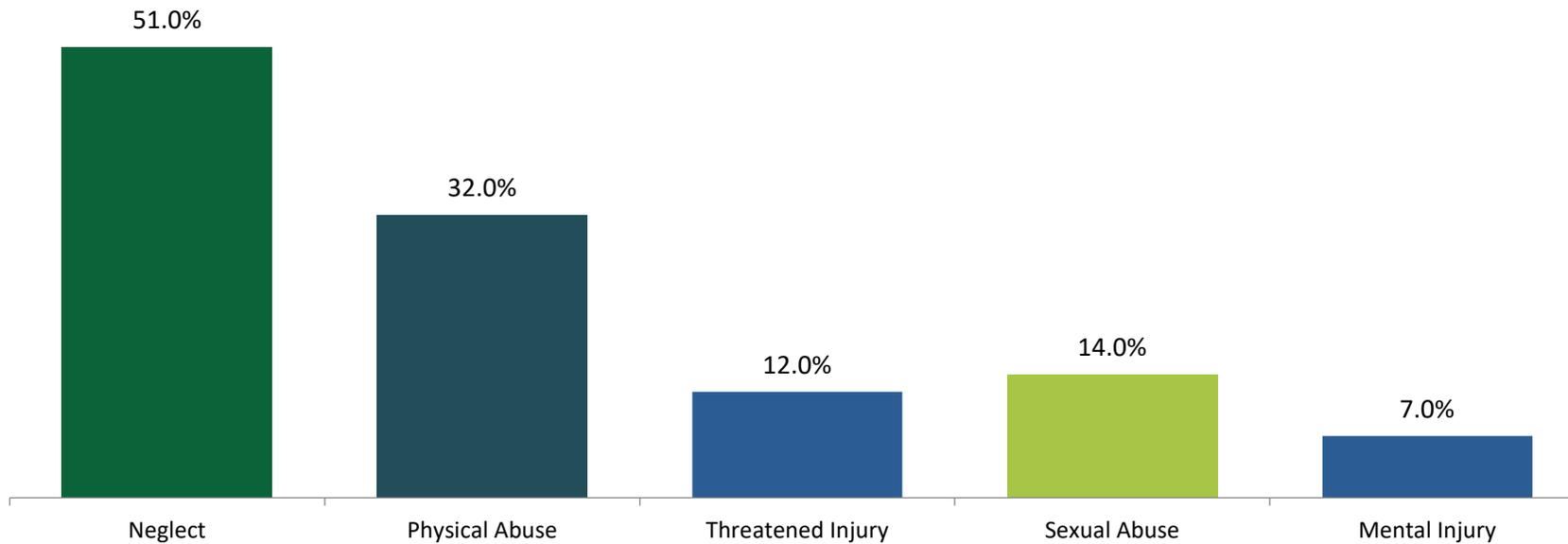
57% assigned for Family Assessment
40% assigned for Family Investigation
3% assigned for Facility Investigation

Year	Total Screened in	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility Investigation
2023	566	322	17	226

Cases Assigned

MN, 2023

Screened-in Maltreatment Allegations



Who are Mandated Reporters?

MN§260E.06

- Law Enforcement
- Education
- Mental Health Services
- Child Care
- Probation
- Correctional Facility
- Healing Arts
- Hospital Administration
- Social Services
- Clergy

Reporters of Child Maltreatment



MN, 2023

82% of reports were made by mandated reporters

Year	Total Reports	Mandated Reporter	Voluntary Reporter
2023	77,446	62,348	15,098

Mandated reporters were more likely to have their reports screened in

Year	Overall percent screened in	Mandated Reports screened in	Voluntary Reports screened in
2023	39%	40%	34%

Penalties and Protections for Mandated Reporters

Penalties:

- Failure to report **known child abuse** = misdemeanor
 - Avoid fear-based reporting

Protections:

- Reporter is confidential
- Reporter is immune from civil/criminal liability
- Employer retaliation prohibited

What and When to Report

- **What:** Known or suspected *abuse* or *neglect* of a child within the preceding three years
- **When:** Oral report within 24 hours **AND** Written report within 72 hours



Information for a Report

- Demographics of the victim
 - Name, age, language
 - Household members
 - Contact information for the family
- Offender and their contact information
- Nature and extent of the maltreatment
- Name and address for the reporter



Information for a Report

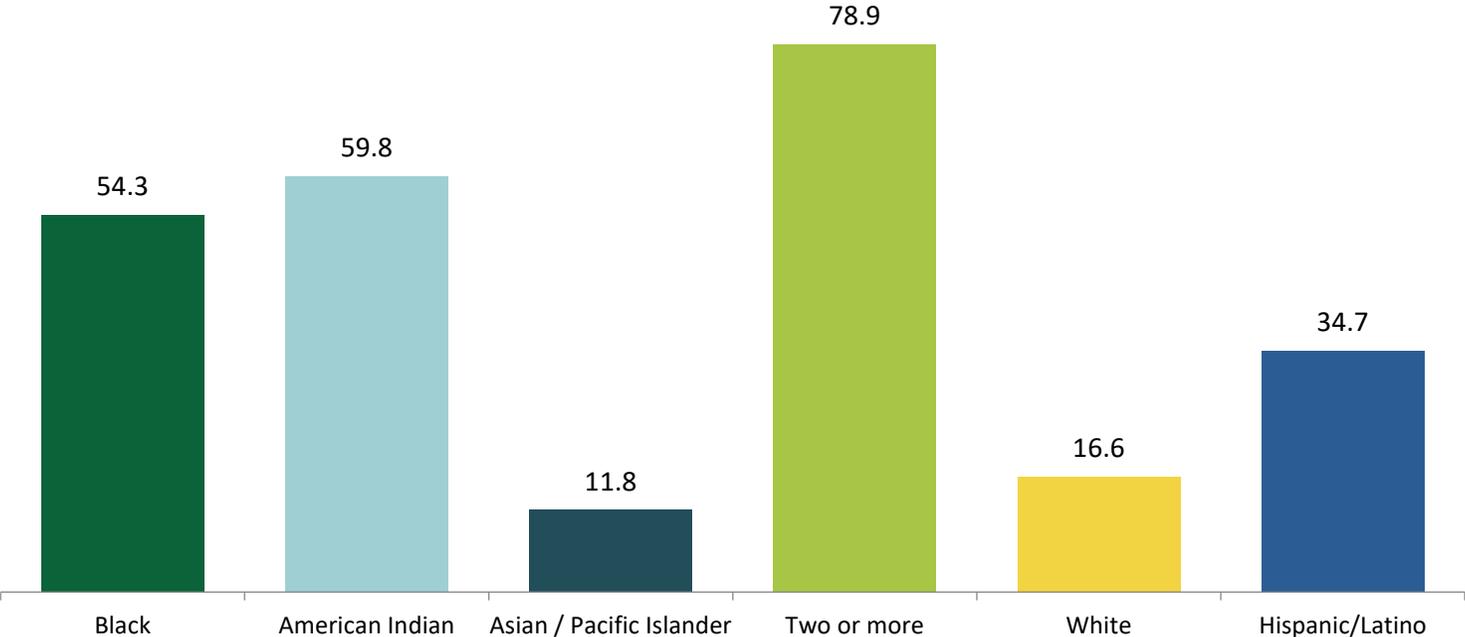
- Gather all pertinent information!
- **Exception - sex abuse**: who did what to whom
- Ask open-ended questions
 - What happened?
 - Tell me more...
- No leading questions



Racial Disparities in Child Welfare

Washington County, 2023

Alleged victims of maltreatment per 1,000 children, screened-in reports



Racial Disparities in Washington County



General Population

Year	Black	American Indian	Asian / Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White	Hispanic/ Latino
2023	5.7%	0.6%	7.9%	2.8%	83.1%	5%

Screened-in Reports

Year	Black	American Indian	Asian / Pacific Islander	Two or more races	White	Hispanic/ Latino
2023	17%	8%	2%	21%	49%	12%

How You Can Help

- Consider ways you can assist families in addressing child safety concerns that might eliminate the need for CP involvement.
- Examine your (or your organization's) reporting practices – Has there been a similar situation where you made a different decision about whether to report and why?
- Ensure you are sharing equally comprehensive information about each family you make a report about. Share concerns as well as strengths.
- Consider whether telling the family you will be making a mandated report may be beneficial.

Response to Reports

01

Report Received

Screening team reviews report, screening guidelines, and service history

02

Screened In or Screened Out

If a report meets criteria set forth by MN Department of Human Services (DHS), the report is screened in

03

Response Path Assigned

If screened in, a case is assigned for Family Assessment, Family Investigation, or Facility Investigation

04

Possible Offer of Voluntary Services

If screened out, a report is documented and Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) or Child Welfare services might be offered

Response to Reports



Family Investigation

- Immediate danger or mandated due to allegation
- 24-hour or five day response
- Maltreatment determinations



Family Assessment

- Safety concerns do not indicate imminent danger
- Five day response



Parent Support Outreach Program



Child Welfare Assessment

Ongoing Services



Child Protection Case Management

- Voluntary or court-ordered
- In-home or out-of-home placement



Referrals to other entities

- Children's Mental Health, Homeless Outreach Services Team, Economic Assistance
- Family / individual therapy
- Chemical dependency services

What Would You Do?

A teacher is supervising parent pick-up at the end of the school day. While a student is getting into the car, the teacher sees the driver reach into the back seat and slap a young child (about two years old) across the face. The driver continues on their way. The teacher does not know the student by name, but thinks they might be a second-grader.

Does the teacher have enough information to make a report?
What should they do next?

Neglect

- Food & Clothing
- Shelter
- Medical
- Education
- Supervision
- Prenatal Exposure



Neglect

Failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply the necessary:

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Education
- Supervision
- Medical / other needed care
- (Prenatal exposure)

When reasonably able to do so (Poverty ≠ Neglect)

Neglect: Food & Clothing

- Failure to provide necessary food which results in:
 - Malnutrition, developmental lags, patterned weakness, inability to concentrate, unnatural low weight and height
 - Poor nutritional value of food alone does not constitute neglect
 - Growth delay, “failure to thrive”
- Failure to provide clothing:
 - That’s *necessary for the weather* conditions and failure to provide this clothing would *seriously endanger* the child
 - Which causes negative social or health impacts

Neglect: Shelter & Environmental Hazards

Dangerous living conditions, which fall under the control of the parent and includes protection from:

- The weather conditions
 - A family's homelessness alone does not meet this criteria
- Environmental hazards
 - Pose a significant health or safety hazard to children in the home (i.e. dangerous drugs including methamphetamine, controlled substances, spoiled food, animal waste, infestation of rodents and insects, broken glass, and exposed wiring.)

Neglect: Access to Alcohol & Controlled Substances

- Parent or caregiver knowingly and willingly permits access to alcohol, cannabis, or non-prescribed prescription drugs or a controlled substance that:
 - results in harm to children including sickness or injury;
 - requires a child to need medical care such as observation and/or treatment; or
 - is used to control or punish a child.

Effective August 1, 2023, recreational cannabis became legal.

Neglect: Medical Care

Refusal, failure to seek/obtain or follow through with necessary medical care if there is *serious risk* to a child

- This does **not** include a parent's choice to solely rely on spiritual means or prayer (in place of routine care)
- Safe Place for Newborns
 - Emergency Department, ambulance, Urgent Care
 - Up to seven days of age

Neglect: Education

- Unexcused absences on seven school days for a child under age 12 (over 12 = truancy)
- We offer diversionary services once three to five days of school have been missed

Neglect: Supervision

- Ages and recommended time to be left alone:
 - Ages 8-10: up to 3 hours
 - Ages 11-13: up to 12 hours
 - Ages 14-15: up to 24 hours
 - Ages 16-17: over 24 hours with a plan on how to respond to an emergency
- Babysitting:
 - Children under 11: should not provide child care
 - Children ages 11-15: follow the time restrictions listed above
 - Children ages 16-17: over 24 hours with adequate adult back-up supervision
- Modifying factors

Neglect: Prenatal Exposure

Diagnosed through:

- Toxicology screens
- Withdrawal symptoms at delivery
- Developmental delays detected in the first year of life that indicate pre-natal exposure

For purposes of this statute, controlled substances means:

- Opium, cocaine, heroin, PCP, methamphetamine, marijuana, amphetamines, or habitual and excessive use of alcohol

What Would You Do?

You're an employee at an elementary school. You've noticed that for the past few weeks a first-grade student has been coming to school looking tired and keeps asking you if you have a spare granola bar. You also notice that he is wearing the same clothing you saw him in the last two days. When asked, the student says that he did not get breakfast.

What would you do next?

Are you mandated to report this information?

Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Threatened Injury
- Mental Injury
- Sexual Abuse
- Threatened Sexual Abuse
- Sexually Exploited Youth (SEY)



Physical Abuse

Any non-accidental injury inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care.

May include:

- Pain
- Swelling
- Marks/bruises
- Broken bones
- Abrasions
- Internal injuries
- Burns
- Unexplained injuries

Physical Abuse

- Throwing, kicking, burning, biting, or cutting a child
- Striking any child with a closed fist
- Shaking a child under age 3
- Striking a child under 18 months
- Interference with a child's breathing
- Unreasonable physical confinement
- Poisoning or chemical restraints

Visible injury is not necessary!

What is not Physical Abuse?

- Reasonable and moderate physical discipline that does not result in an injury
- Accidental injuries not associated with caregiver abuse or neglect

Threatened Injury

A statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a *substantial risk* of physical, sexual abuse, or mental injury.

- Exposure to dangerous persons or situations
- Driving while intoxicated
- Threats of abuse

Domestic Violence

- Children must be involved in or at risk of injury during incidents of domestic violence. Children witnessing or being exposed to domestic violence against a parent or caregiver is not by itself sufficient.

Mental Injury

An inflicted injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child evidenced by an *observable* and *substantial* impairment in the child's ability to function as normal.

(Usually diagnosed by a mental health professional)

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse of a child by a person responsible for the child's care **OR** by a person with a significant relationship to the child who resides in the household **OR** by a sibling

Sexual Abuse

- Touching or penetrating a child's private parts
- Having a child touch their own private parts
- Having a child touch the private parts of another person
- Touching clothing covering the immediate area of the private parts
- Use of a child in a sexual performance

The act must be performed with sexual or aggressive intent.

(Private parts are defined as the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast)

What Else Could Be Included?

- Soliciting sexual activity or explicit content to/from a child (by any means)
- Unexplained injuries to genitals
- Purposefully exposing a child to sexual activity
- Children with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Threatened Sexual Abuse

- A person threatening to engage in sexual behavior with a child (*including behavior recognized as preparation for initiating sexual contact*)
- A parent or household member required to register as a predatory offender
- Possession of images of child sexual abuse

Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth

- Addresses victims of human trafficking under age 24
(Child Protection can assist up to age 18)
- These youth are victims, **not** perpetrators or delinquents
- Cases are taken for Child Welfare Assessment, unless there is an identified third-party trafficker

What Would You Do?

A 15-year-old tells you, her school resource officer, that when she was seven-years-old, her brother (who is two years older than her) put his fingers in her vagina on several occasions. In addition to her older brother, she has two younger siblings aged twelve and eight.

Would you ask for additional information?

Should you make a report?

Where to Report

- Phone: 651-430-6457
- Fax: 651-430-8340
- Email: childprotection@co.washington.mn.us
- Website: www.co.washington.mn.us/reportchildabuse
 - ↳ Report Child Abuse or Neglect
OR Law Enforcement

Screeners: Christy & Kelly



Written report

Child Protection
Investigations

[Home](#) › [Departments](#) › [Community Services](#) › [Support for Individuals and Families](#) › [Children's Services](#) › Child Protection

Child Protection

Child protection intake screeners, in partnership with the screening team, review and accept reports of alleged child maltreatment based on the Department of Human Services (DHS) Minnesota Child Maltreatment Intake, Screening, and Response Path Guidelines.

When to Report

Verbal Report

Written Report

To make a written report on suspected abuse or neglect of a child:

Please fill out and submit this online form: [Referral of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect](#).

Submissions lacking identifying information may result in a report not being accepted.

Failure to Report

Contact Us

To Report Child Abuse or Neglect

Phone: [651-430-6457](tel:651-430-6457)

[Email Staff](#)

After 4:30 p.m. or on weekends

Call Crisis Response

Phone: [651-275-7400](tel:651-275-7400)

Interpreter service is
available



Locations

[Cottage Grove](#)

[Forest Lake](#)

[Stillwater](#)

[Woodbury](#)

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Quick Links

- [Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention](#)

Written report

Print before
submitting!

Washington County
MINNESOTA

Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Referral

If you wish to retain a copy of what you are submitting, please print a copy for your records prior to submitting.

Child(ren)'s Name(s) * Child(ren)'s Date of Birth and/or Age

School or Day Care Child(ren) Attend(s) Parent(s)/Guardian Name(s) *

Parent(s)/Guardian Address Parent(s)/Guardian Telephone Number(s), if known

City State Zip Code

Is parent/guardian aware of report? * Please select a value... Is child aware of report? * Please select a value...

Last known incident of suspected abuse/neglect and date

Describe concerns/reasons for referral

Did you place a phone call to Social Services Intake? Please select a value... Who did you speak with?

Date and time you called 12 AM 00

Alleged Perpetrator Information

First Name Last Name

Relationship to child Phone Number



Questions?

Contact Information

- Kelly Klauer: 651-829-4683

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- Molly Olson: 651-279-2698

Molly.Olson@co.washington.mn.us

- Carrie Krautkremer: 651-829-5581

Carrie.Krautkremer@co.washington.mn.us

[On-demand Mandated Reporter Training
through MN Child Welfare Training Academy](#)