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Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics
Annual Report - Fiscal Year 1986

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

U.S. Department of Justice
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STATE OF ILLINOIS

GORDON JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

ONE NORTH OLD STATE CAPITOL PLAZA
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

About This Report . . .

This is the Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Report of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for fiscal year 1986. It presents a comprehensive picture of the problem in Illinois—its scope, nature, and seriousness—and of what the Department is doing to protect the state's children who are at risk.

In our efforts to assure the safety of these children, the Department has in the past several years implemented major improvements in the state system of reporting and tracking suspected cases of abuse and neglect. We have strengthened local investigation teams around the state, promoting an efficient, compassionate response to reports. Also, in view of a dramatic rise in the 1980s of reports of sexual abuse, the Department has established innovative programs designed to protect children as much as possible from further trauma while cases are investigated. There is a special section on sexual abuse in this report.

I urge you to study the report carefully, whether you do so as a concerned professional, a student, or a private citizen. In the past few decades we have seen increased societal awareness of child abuse and neglect, awareness which has been the impetus behind a concerted attack on the problem. It is my belief that such awareness, coupled with understanding, is the key to better protection of children and improved services for their families.

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Gordon Johnson

ACQUISITIONS

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Statistical Highlights

- In fiscal year 1986, 70,422 Illinois children were reported as victims of child abuse/neglect—a rate of 21.7 alleged victims per 1,000 children. (p. 1)
- Credible evidence was found that 33,959 children were abused and/or neglected—a rate of 10.5 victims per 1,000 children. (p. 2)
- Credible evidence of abuse and/or neglect was found for 48.2 percent of all reported victims. (p. 2)
- Of all indicated victims, 75 percent were abused or neglected by natural parents. (p. 23)
- More than two-thirds of all children reported were nine years of age or younger. (p. 5)
- A record 181,548 calls were received at the State Central Register child abuse hotline. (p. 7)
- Of all child abuse/neglect reports, 60 percent were made by persons required by law to report—"mandated reporters." (pp. 9, 16)
- The number of children taken into protective custody was 5,956. (p. 13) This was a 7.1 percent decrease over fiscal year 1985.
- Illinois experienced a 48 percent increase in substantiated child fatality reports. (p. 19)

I. Nature of the Problem

A. Definitions

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (P.A. 81-1077, effective July 1, 1980), the state's most recently enacted child abuse and neglect law, defines an "abused child" as:

- a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent
 - a. inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
 - b. creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
 - c. commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 1961, as amended, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;
 - d. commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child; or
 - e. inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

A "neglected child" according to the law means:

- any child whose parent, or other person responsible for the child's welfare does not provide the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, or medical or other remedial care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's well-being; or other care necessary for his or her well-being, including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

III. Magnitude of the Problem

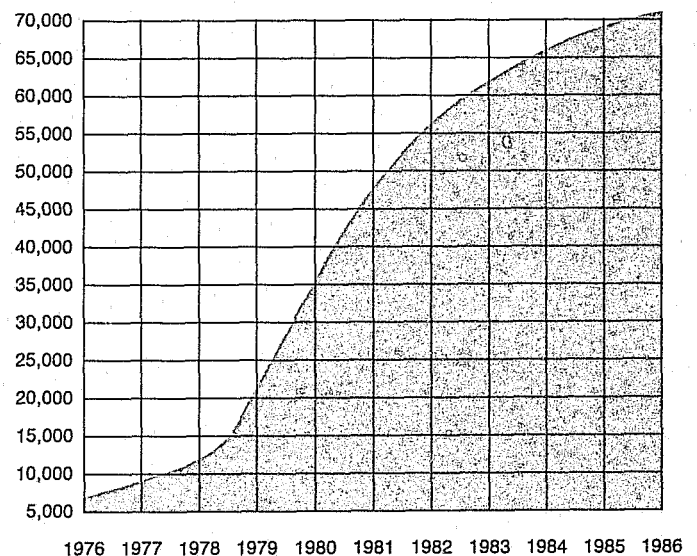
A. Historical Perspective

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of child abuse and neglect has increased enormously during the past 10 years. Fewer than 3,000 children were reported in fiscal year 1975, compared to nearly 70,000 children in fiscal year 1986.

B. Report Volume During Fiscal Year 1986

During state fiscal year 1986 (July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986), 70,422 Illinois children were reported

Table 1
Increase of Children
Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1976 through 1986



Fiscal Year	Children Reported	Percent of Increase From Previous Year
1976	6,734	141.1%
1977	9,183	36.4%
1978	13,453	46.5%
1979	24,807	84.4%
1980	37,476	51.1%
1981	51,548	37.5%
1982	59,194	14.8%
1983	63,432	7.2%
1984	67,058	5.7%
1985	69,627	3.8%
1986	70,422	1.1%

as victims of child abuse and/or neglect. Illinois had a "reporting rate" in fiscal year 1986 of 21.7 alleged victims per 1,000 children (Table 2). In other words, about two percent of all Illinois children under 18 years of age were reported during the fiscal year as victims of suspected abuse and neglect.

Investigations conducted by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) found that abuse or neglect allegations for 33,959 of the reported children were "indicated"—that is, credible evidence was gathered which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected. Illinois had an "indicated rate" during fiscal year 1986 of 10.5 children per 1,000 children under 18 years of age. Less than half of all reported children were found to have been actually abused or neglected.

Figure 1 shows comparative figures on child abuse and neglect reports and reporting rates for the

state's eight service regions for fiscal year 1986. The Chicago and Aurora regions, the two most populous regions in the state, have the lowest reporting rates (Table 3).

Reporting rates nationwide tend to be higher in rural areas than in urban and suburban areas.¹ Suburban areas tend to have the lowest reporting rate. Table 4 provides data showing distribution of reports by Illinois county for the past four fiscal years and the reporting rate per 1,000 of each county's child population (0-18 years).

Nineteen Illinois counties have a population in excess of 100,000. The average reporting rate in these urban counties is 23.1 children per 1,000. In 14 rural counties with populations of less than

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect*, Publication No. (OHDA) 81-30325, issued September 11, 1981.

Table 2
Reporting Rates in Illinois
Fiscal Year 1986

Children under 18 years of age	3,243,037*	Indicated Reports	
Reports to the State Central Register		Indicated family reports	20,143
Family reports to SCR	41,498	Victims with indicated allegations	33,959
Alleged victims listed in reports	70,422	Percent of family reports indicated	48.5
Reported incidence: reports of		Percent of victims with indicated	
alleged victims per 1,000 children	21.7	allegations	48.2
		Indicated incidence: victims with indicated	
		allegations per 1,000 children	10.5

*From 1980 U.S. Census

Table 3
Distribution by Region of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused or Neglected

Region	Fiscal Year 1984			Fiscal Year 1985			Fiscal Year 1986		
	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Rockford	4,008	6.0	23.3	4,168	6.0	24.3	4,347	6.2	25.3
Peoria	6,166	9.2	22.6	6,369	9.1	23.3	6,215	8.8	22.7
Aurora	9,122	13.6	14.6	9,654	13.9	15.4	9,656	13.7	15.4
Chicago	28,291	42.2	19.4	29,906	43.0	20.5	30,336	43.1	20.8
Springfield	4,101	6.1	25.3	4,017	5.8	24.8	4,165	5.9	25.3
Champaign	5,634	8.4	26.9	5,912	8.5	28.2	6,078	8.6	29.0
East St. Louis	5,505	8.2	29.3	5,504	7.9	29.3	5,566	7.9	29.6
Marion	4,232	6.3	28.0	4,097	5.9	27.1	4,059	5.8	26.8
Not Specified									
State	67,058	100.0	20.7	69,627	100.0	21.5	70,422	100.0	21.7

*Rate per 1,000 of the region's children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

Table 4
Distribution by County of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused and Neglected

County	Fiscal Year 1983		Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986		County	Fiscal Year 1983		Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Adams	629	31.8	645	32.6	596	30.2	510	25.8	Livingston	217	19.3	220	19.6	252	22.4	260	23.1
Alexander	223	62.2	209	58.2	169	47.1	223	62.2	Logan	176	22.0	175	21.8	196	24.5	184	23.0
Bond	97	22.8	80	18.8	71	16.7	73	17.2	Macon**	1,153	30.2	1,068	28.0	1,220	32.0	1,247	32.7
Boone	157	17.2	202	22.2	150	16.5	183	20.1	Macoupin	308	22.5	335	24.5	254	18.5	342	25.0
Brown*	39	26.5	37	25.1	32	21.7	37	25.1	Madison**	1,993	28.5	2,051	29.3	1,992	28.4	1,956	27.9
Bureau	234	20.9	208	18.5	223	19.9	236	21.0	Marion	358	29.1	379	30.8	431	35.0	432	35.1
Calhoun*	26	16.0	11	6.8	16	9.9	14	8.6	Marshall	30	7.1	57	13.5	52	12.4	50	11.9
Carroll	86	16.4	114	21.7	119	22.7	101	19.3	Mason	108	18.3	150	25.4	132	22.3	184	31.1
Cass	154	35.9	121	28.2	98	22.8	89	20.7	Massac	131	33.5	136	34.8	123	31.4	138	35.3
Champaign**	1,084	28.5	1,273	33.4	1,198	31.5	1,354	35.6	McDonough	246	31.4	251	32.1	288	36.8	255	32.6
Christian	245	23.5	282	25.4	211	20.4	277	26.8	McHenry**	625	13.3	593	12.6	669	14.2	653	13.9
Clark	52	11.7	80	17.7	68	15.0	89	19.7	McLean**	695	23.7	694	23.7	758	25.9	717	24.5
Clay	88	21.2	120	29.0	94	22.7	94	22.7	Menard	53	15.5	37	10.8	72	21.1	74	21.7
Clinton	115	11.2	155	15.1	159	15.5	122	11.9	Mercer	86	14.6	38	16.4	91	15.4	72	12.2
Coles	428	36.6	388	33.2	460	39.3	483	41.3	Monroe	56	9.6	72	12.3	45	7.7	31	5.3
Cook**	26,181	17.9	28,291	19.4	29,906	20.5	30,336	20.8	Montgomery	177	20.4	227	26.1	180	20.7	209	24.0
Crawford	57	10.6	96	17.8	69	12.8	125	23.1	Morgan	261	25.9	253	25.1	246	24.4	253	25.1
Cumberland	70	21.1	62	18.7	68	20.5	72	21.7	Moultrie	95	23.7	46	11.5	83	20.7	88	22.0
DeKalb	336	19.6	335	19.5	339	19.8	403	23.5	Ogle	198	14.1	272	19.3	245	17.4	296	21.0
DeWitt	85	16.6	81	15.8	143	27.9	114	22.3	Peoria**	1,525	26.8	1,574	27.7	1,641	28.9	1,520	26.8
Douglas	110	19.4	115	20.3	96	16.9	115	20.3	Perry	123	19.9	153	24.8	149	24.2	96	15.6
DuPage**	1,384	7.1	1,482	7.6	1,630	8.3	1,603	8.2	Piatt	54	11.0	56	11.4	114	23.3	61	12.5
Edgar	223	37.4	182	30.5	139	23.3	202	33.9	Pike	127	25.2	145	28.8	123	24.4	84	16.7
Edwards	42	19.7	58	27.2	36	16.9	28	13.1	Pope*	23	19.1	16	13.3	24	19.9	24	19.9
Effingham	214	22.1	168	17.4	170	17.6	195	20.1	Pulaski*	158	59.8	136	51.5	128	48.4	84	31.8
Fayette	205	34.0	122	20.3	134	22.3	135	22.4	Putnam*	14	7	28	15.4	27	14.8	12	6.6
Ford	70	16.8	91	21.9	73	17.5	92	22.1	Randolph	156	16.6	101	10.7	165	17.5	177	18.8
Franklin	295	25.8	296	25.9	246	21.5	243	21.2	Richland	101	21.4	133	28.2	149	31.6	130	27.5
Fulton	272	22.1	311	25.5	301	24.4	303	24.6	Rock Island**	1,187	25.3	1,185	25.3	1,253	26.7	1,228	26.2
Gallatin*	67	31.6	77	36.3	48	22.6	41	19.3	Saline	267	37.7	222	31.4	180	25.5	241	34.1
Greene	77	16.5	103	22.0	114	24.4	86	18.4	Sangamon**	1,229	25.4	1,336	27.6	1,443	29.8	1,532	31.7
Grundy	123	13.2	112	12.0	135	14.5	117	12.6	Schuyler*	40	17.7	40	17.7	28	12.4	43	19.0
Hamilton*	55	24.2	37	16.2	43	18.9	41	18.0	Scott*	25	15.2	18	11.0	32	19.5	34	20.7
Hancock	135	20.5	100	15.2	136	20.6	113	17.1	Shelby	146	21.2	133	19.3	133	19.3	139	20.2
Hardin*	51	35.3	40	27.7	22	15.2	48	33.2	Stark*	23	14.0	14	6.5	25	11.7	3,157	37.6
Henderson*	23	8.6	50	18.7	62	23.2	53	19.9	St. Clair**	3,103	36.9	3,006	35.8	3,007	35.8	28	13.1
Henry	194	11.1	203	11.6	221	12.6	251	14.3	Stephenson	277	19.8	366	26.2	364	26.0	320	22.9
Iroquois	235	25.2	174	18.7	163	17.5	188	20.2	Tazewell**	799	20.0	893	22.3	835	20.8	862	21.5
Jackson	416	33.0	422	33.5	439	34.8	392	31.1	Union	144	34.8	206	49.8	161	38.9	152	36.8
Jasper	51	15.4	61	18.4	67	20.2	61	18.4	Vermilion	1,015	37.1	968	35.4	942	34.4	857	31.3
Jefferson	292	28.6	295	28.9	302	29.6	287	28.1	Wabash	67	17.6	80	21.1	100	26.3	77	20.3
Jersey	101	17.0	106	17.8	100	16.8	100	16.8	Warren	103	16.5	115	18.4	108	17.3	112	18.0
Jo Daviess	90	12.5	108	15.0	119	16.5	112	15.5	Washington	29	6.9	34	8.1	64	15.2	50	11.9
Johnson*	52	21.6	66	27.4	90	37.4	73	30.3	Wayne	85	17.9	114	24.0	85	17.9	101	21.2
Kane**	1,961	22.4	2,093	23.9	2,238	25.5	2,255	25.7	White	94	21.8	96	22.2	110	25.5	120	27.8
Kankakee**	827	26.0	823	25.9	802	25.2	837	26.3	Whiteside	383	19.0	379	18.8	472	23.5	491	24.4
Kendall	154	12.3	133	10.7	119	9.5	124	9.9	Will**	1,616	15.0	1,831	17.0	1,923	17.8	1,756	16.3
Knox	439	26.6	506	30.6	464	28.1	465	28.2	Williamson	393	26.6	386	26.1	429	29.7	353	23.9
Lake**	1,737	13.0	2,054	15.4	2,138	16.0	689	22.4	Winnebago**	1,863	25.1	1,998	26.9	2,115	28.4	2,185	29.4
LaSalle**	584	19.0	616	20.0	657	21.4	2,311	17.3	Woodford**	95	9.1	111	10.6	121	11.8	79	7.6
Lawrence	82	17.3	103	21.8	88	18.6	125	26.4	Not Specified	58		22		12			
Lee	197	18.9	229	22.0	245	23.6	256	24.6	STATE	63,432	19.6	67,058	20.7	69,627	21.5	70,422	21.7

* = population under 10,000

** = population over 100,000

Figure 1
Child Reports of Abuse/Neglect
by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

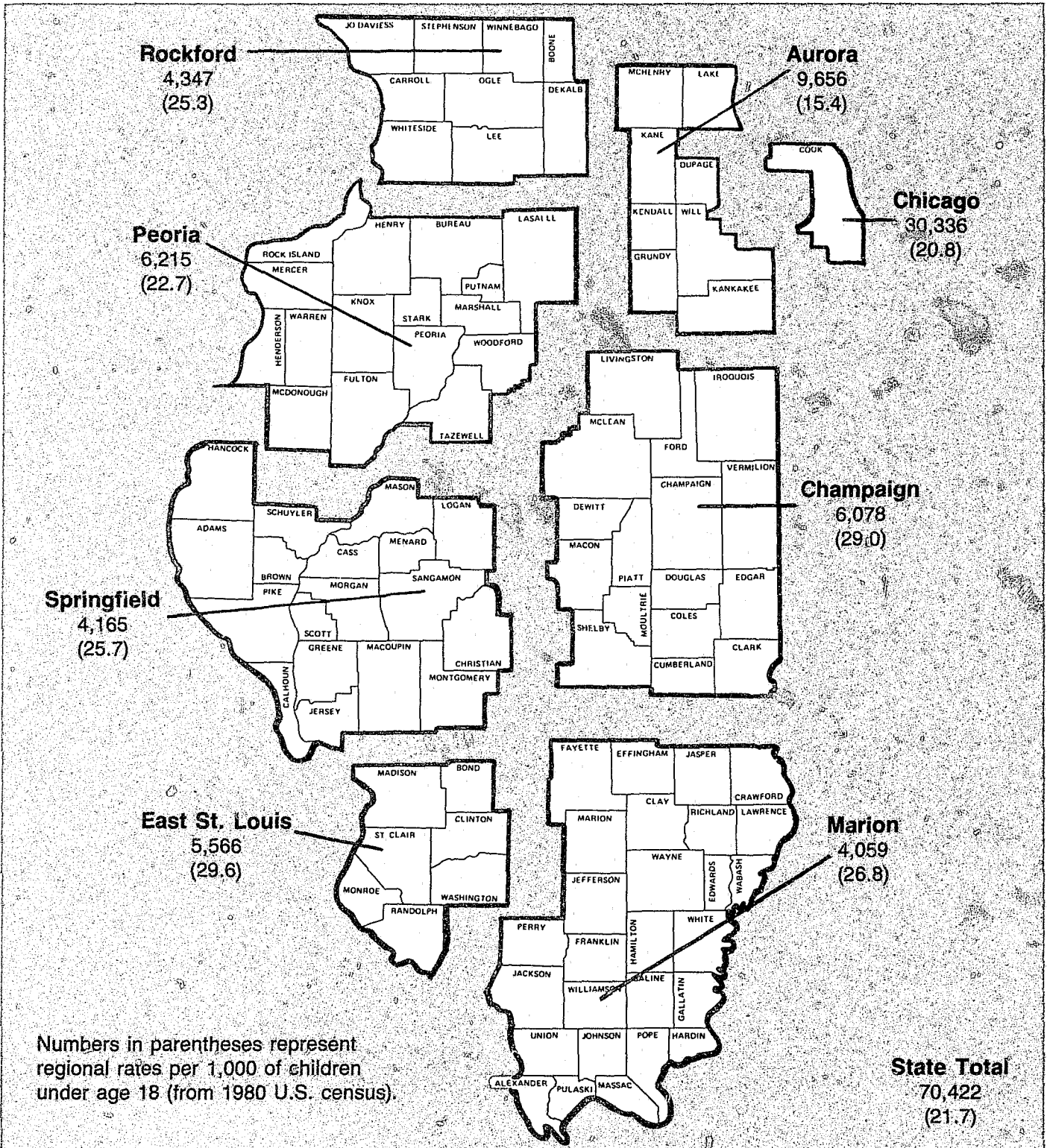


Table 5
Comparison of Reporting Rates by Type of County

National Estimate	FY 1984	FY 1985	FY 1986
Urban 19.5 per 1,000	20.1	21.1	23.1
Suburban 10.9 per 1,000	14.1	15.0	15.0
Rural 20.9 per 1,000	22.5	22.0	20.1
TOTAL 17.8 per 1,000	20.7	21.5	21.7

10,000, the average reporting rate was 20.1 children per 1,000.

The state's suburban counties—Lake, DuPage, Kane, Will and McHenry—have an average reporting rate of 15.0 per 1,000. As noted in Table 5, reporting trends in Illinois are consistent with reporting trends in urban, suburban, and rural areas nationwide.

Although the number of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect has increased each fiscal year, the rate of increase has declined since fiscal year 1979 (see Table 1). The decreasing growth rate is attributed to several factors. A massive educational campaign in fiscal year 1979 promoted an increased public awareness of child abuse and neg-

lect. The number of children reported as victims of suspected abuse and neglect increased by 84.4 percent in fiscal year 1979. As the educational campaign reached most of its intended audience, the reporting rate began to stabilize. In addition, the number of children reported as being abused or neglected may be approaching the actual number (as yet unknown).

C. Demographics

Although the number of children reported as being abused or neglected has increased over the past several fiscal years, changes in age, sex, and race distribution have not been significant. Consistently, more than two-thirds of all children reported have been nine years of age or younger (Table 6).

Children 0-2 years old have accounted for 24 percent of all reports during the past three fiscal years. Reporting rates in Illinois have generally declined with increasing age. Overall reporting rates are essentially the same for both boys and girls. Along racial lines, however, black children are disproportionately reported. Approximately 20 percent of the child population in Illinois is black,

Table 6
Demographic Characteristics of Children Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1984 through 1986

Child Characteristics	Fiscal Year 1984			Fiscal Year 1985			Fiscal Year 1986		
	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*	Number	Percent	Rate*
Age of Child									
0-2	15,856	23.6	30.7	16,791	22.7	32.5	17,123	24.3	33.1
3-5	14,571	21.7	29.9	15,252	21.9	31.3	15,518	22.0	31.9
6-9	15,090	22.5	21.9	15,539	22.3	22.6	15,938	22.6	23.2
10-13	12,430	18.5	17.1	12,353	17.7	17.0	12,281	17.4	16.9
14-17	8,572	12.8	10.4	9,214	13.2	11.2	9,150	13.0	11.1
Age not reported	539	.8	—	478	.7	—	412	.6	—
Sex of Child									
Boys	32,706	48.8	19.7	33,246	47.7	20.1	33,380	47.4	20.1
Girls	33,923	50.6	21.4	35,934	51.6	22.7	36,504	51.8	23.0
Sex not reported	429	.6	—	447	.6	—	538	.8	—
Child's Ethnic Group									
White	38,363	57.2	16.6	39,119	56.2	17.0	39,179	55.6	17.0
Black	23,020	34.3	37.6	24,504	35.2	40.0	25,283	35.9	41.3
Hispanic	3,663	5.5	14.3	3,813	5.5	14.9	4,034	5.7	15.7
Other/Not Specified	2,012	3.0	—	2,191	3.1	—	1,926	2.7	18.2
TOTAL	67,058		20.7	69,627		21.5	70,422		21.7

*Rate per 1,000 children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

but 36 percent of the children reported as abused or neglected were black. It should also be noted that, while white and Hispanic ethnic groups have remained at nearly the same percentage during the past four fiscal years, the "Other/Not Specified" category has continued a consistent

decline. With an improved information system, it is likely that race is recorded more accurately, so that the increase in the percentage of black children reported and the decrease in the "Other/Not Specified" category reflect, in part, improved record-keeping.

III. Confronting the Problem

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is the state agency designated to investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Because of the need to respond systematically and thoroughly to the increasing number of reports, a total redesign of the state's child protection system was initiated in fiscal year 1981.

A. Child Abuse Hotline and the State Central Register

Since the beginning of fiscal year 1981, the Department has assumed a national leadership position in the development of centralized reporting of child abuse and neglect. The "hub" of the state's child protection system is the computerized State Central Register (SCR) and the statewide, toll-free reporting hotline. The State Central Register houses a sophisticated computer system which operates around the clock with 21 visual display terminals. The toll-free number is 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25A-BUSE). Persons outside the state wishing to report suspected child abuse or neglect in Illinois may call 217-785-4020.

When a person telephones the State Central Register hotline, a specially trained social worker requests information to determine if the call constitutes a report. A report of suspected child abuse or neglect must have four basic elements:

- a child under 18 years of age
- a caretaker responsible for the victim
- a set of circumstances or specific incident
- harm or substantial risk of harm to the child

The social worker then searches the Central Register computer files to find out whether a prior indicated report of abuse or neglect exists on any person in the report, including a child or an alleged perpetrator. If the reporter is doubtful about the spelling of a name, the computer's "Soundex"

search system will display on the terminal all names on file that sound like the reported names, along with accompanying age, race, and address. This information, which is displayed in seconds, includes the date and nature of prior indicated reports on alleged victims and all other adults and children in the family, action taken during these investigations (court activity, protective custody, foster care placement, etc.), family or caretaker relationship, and the identity of the perpetrator and caseworker.

Details of the new report and background information are transmitted to the appropriate investigative team. The new report data is then entered on the terminal and set up on the computer file to await updating when the field investigation is completed. Information about previously indicated reports is available to authorized persons at any time of the day or night.

During fiscal year 1986, the State Central Register received 181,548 calls. The number of calls has increased by 155 percent over the number received in fiscal year 1981 (Figure 2).

Reports may be made by private citizens or by mandated reporters—persons required by law (teachers, physicians, law enforcement officers, etc.) to report suspected child abuse and neglect. During fiscal year 1986, mandated reporters made 60 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect (Table 7 and Figure 3). Medical personnel were responsible for the largest percentage of reports from mandated sources (16.5 percent) and coroner/medical examiner the smallest (0.1 percent). National estimates by reporting source are very similar to Illinois except for medical personnel. Nationwide, medical personnel make fewer reports than other mandated sources.¹

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Reports made by relatives, friends, neighbors, or child victims accounted for 40 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

When a report of child abuse or neglect is made to the State Central Register, suspected harms to the child are identified by the hotline social worker. Each harm must be addressed during the process of the investigation. For example, a reporter may suspect that a child has been left alone without a caretaker and has been bruised by a caretaker. In this situation, two harms would be identified for this child.

If other harms are discovered during the investigation, these will also be added to the list. There were 96,865 specified alleged harms to children in fiscal year 1986, an average of 1.37 harms for each suspected child victim (Table 8). The 41,498 family reports involved 70,422 children, or 1.69 children per family report.

As noted in Table 9, reports alleging only abuse harms (called Abuse Reports) accounted for 47.3 percent of all reports; reports alleging only neglect harms (Neglect Reports) accounted for 42.4 percent; and reports containing both abuse and neglect harms (Both) accounted for 10.3 percent. Figure 4 illustrates that more than half (51.3 percent) involved lack of supervision or environmental neglect.

Table 10 provides a detailed look at specific harms of abuse and neglect reported and indicated.

When the computerized Central Register was first established, centralized reporting of suspected abuse and neglect was impeded by the slow transmission of vital information from the Register to investigators in the field offices. The reports were transmitted by telephone. A social worker in the Register would transmit the information orally to

Figure 2
Incoming Calls to the State Central Register
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

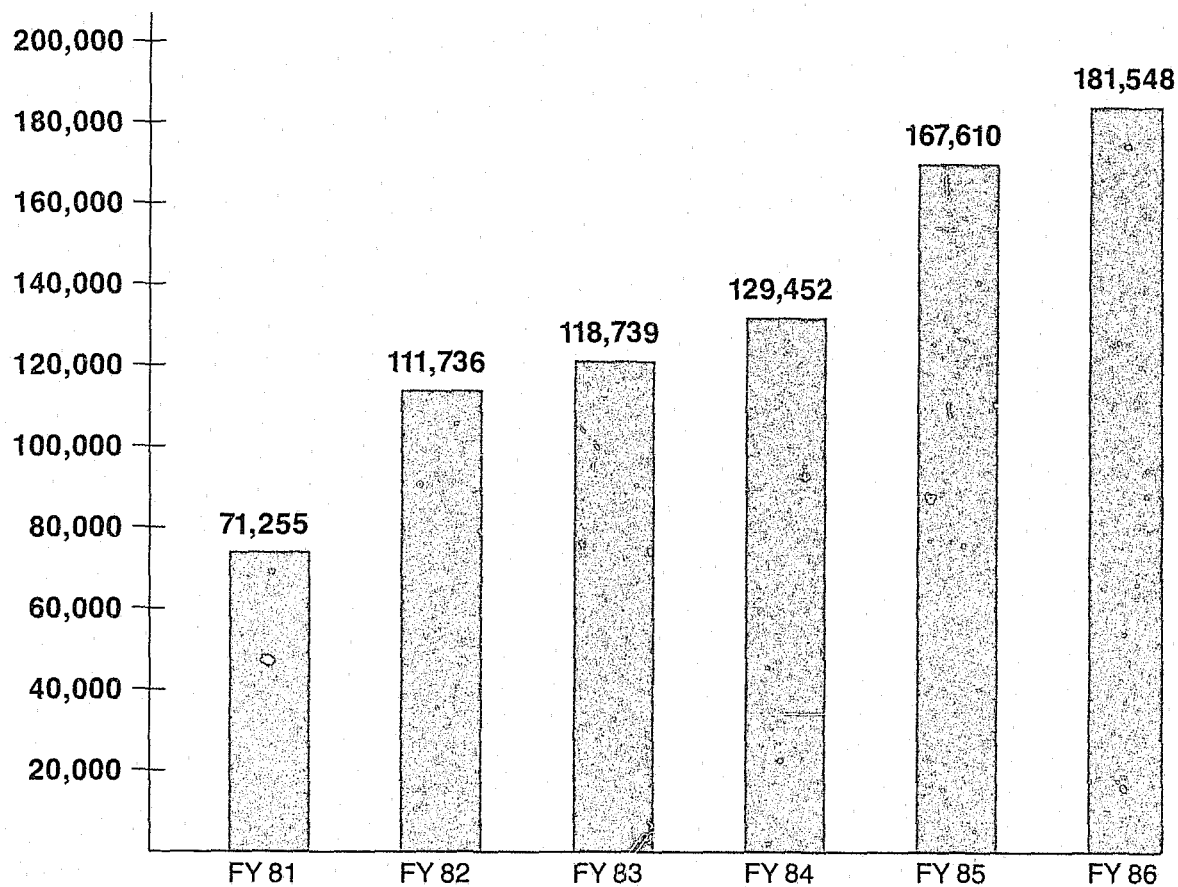
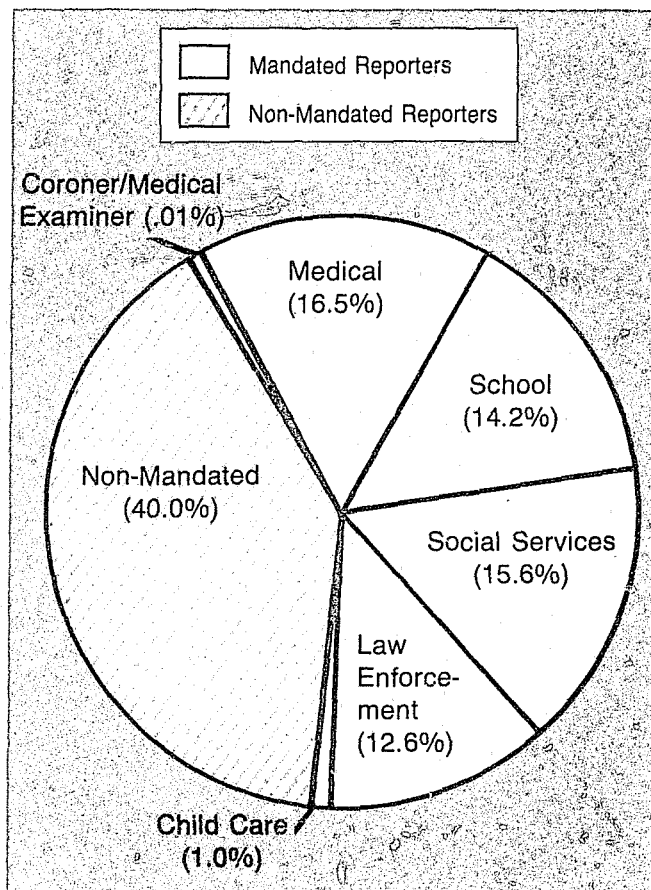


Table 7
Source of Reports by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State
MANDATED									
Clinic or Hospital Physician	36	48	121	1,258	33	63	24	29	1,612
Nurse (LPN)	1	12	6	22	6	11	1	11	70
Nurse (RN)	111	257	408	1,008	92	174	180	107	2,337
Private Physician	32	48	64	165	27	45	18	31	430
Hospital Social Worker	79	60	232	1,589	78	110	226	45	2,419
Other Medical Personnel	17	12	25	119	21	17	16	10	237
Total Medical	276	437	856	4,161	257	420	465	233	7,105
School Counselor	67	58	131	230	40	60	39	25	650
Principal	111	148	299	652	121	189	86	90	1,696
School Nurse	127	51	164	147	31	54	61	56	691
School Social Worker	55	52	415	695	35	96	63	25	1,436
Teacher	72	102	117	252	76	82	64	70	835
Assistant Principal	5	14	18	83	3	12	10	5	150
Truant Officer	27	12	23	159	2	3	21	5	252
Other School Personnel	29	54	81	123	29	40	22	21	399
Total School Personnel	493	491	1,248	2,341	337	536	366	297	6,109
DCFS Investigator	59	56	36	117	44	79	67	46	504
DCFS Investigative Supervisor	5	3	4	20	8	3	6	4	53
DCFS Follow-up Worker	101	112	119	645	91	133	174	116	1,491
DCFS Licensing Worker	11	1	2	10	2	2	3	1	32
DCFS Resource Worker	2	3	2	2	4	1	1	1	13
DCFS Adoption Worker	1	1	4	6	3	1	2	2	18
DCFS Homemaker	25	30	4	5	30	14	2	7	117
DCFS Institutional Worker				1			1	1	3
Other DCFS Personnel	12	10	5	38	5	12	10	4	96
Total DCFS Personnel	216	216	174	844	187	244	266	180	2,327
Department of Corrections Staff				4	2	1			7
Department of Public Aid Staff	22	29	53	133	21	23	42	33	356
Institutional Staff	2	5	6	23	4	3	7	1	51
Mental Health Personnel	59	52	59	125	51	78	24	66	514
Private Agency Social Worker	105	165	218	632	59	114	95	67	1,455
Psychologist	11	35	51	117	6	11	13	7	251
Other Social Services	128	225	241	677	84	174	105	103	1,737
Total Social Services	327	511	628	1,711	227	404	286	277	4,371
Court		5	3	29		4	1		42
Emergency Services Staff			2	4			1		7
Parole/Probation Officer	21	21	30	112	15	16	9	10	234
Police Officer	277	461	754	1,002	261	351	284	317	3,707
State's Attorney	11	19	17	22	6	18	7	10	110
Juvenile Officer	20	93	180	627	51	70	38	9	1,088
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	13	18	41	77	19	21	22	25	236
Total Law Enforcement	342	617	1,027	1,873	352	480	362	371	5,424
Coroner	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	6
Medical Examiner	0	0	2	38	0	0	0	0	40
Total Coroner/Medical Examiner	0	1	4	39	1	1	0	0	46
Day Care/Night Care Center	53	22	37	107	30	39	24	27	339
Day Care/Night Care Home	2	5	3	6	6	6	2	1	31
Pre-School/Nursery School	6	6	9	23	5	12	5	8	74
Total Child Care Centers	61	33	49	136	41	57	31	36	444
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	1,715	2,306	3,986	11,105	1,402	2,142	1,776	1,394	25,826
NON-MANDATED									
Father/Father Substitute	97	139	203	636	117	122	122	90	1,526
Friend/Neighbor	310	460	637	1,646	340	458	381	288	4,520
Mother/Mother Substitute	122	192	282	587	140	183	160	136	1,802
Relative	171	252	393	2,009	191	271	298	209	3,794
Sibling	2	6	9	49		7	6	4	83
Victim	15	26	43	181	16	33	23	19	356
Total Relative/Neighbor	717	1,075	1,567	5,108	804	1,074	990	746	12,081
Non-Center/Home Child Care	2	5	4	6		4		2	23
Babysitter	13	21	47	41	12	15	16	17	182
Other Child Care Provider	8	11	3	13	4	6	4	5	54
Landlord	11	22	50	113	22	29	16	16	279
Anonymous	183	350	448	1,446	270	359	334	272	3,662
Other Reporting Source	61	88	146	297	70	102	76	69	909
Unknown	0	0	0	10	0	3	4	0	17
Total Other	278	497	698	1,926	378	518	450	381	5,126
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	995	1,572	2,265	7,034	1,182	1,592	1,440	1,127	17,207
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	2,710	3,878	6,251	18,139	2,584	3,734	3,216	2,521	43,033

Figure 3
Source of Reports by Type
 Fiscal Year 1986



a field investigator, who would duplicate the data on his or her own report form, confirm spellings and addresses, and then proceed on the investigation. Each report took an average of 15 minutes to transmit. Since one purpose of the State Central Register is to use the most modern means available to communicate with the entire state in what may be life-and-death situations, using the telephone to transmit information to investigators meant that hotline workers were not always available to receive incoming calls. A solution to this problem was the installation of a telecopier facsimile network at the State Central Register and all investigative team headquarters. A report taken at the State Central Register (or at a local office) can be immediately telecopied to the appropriate office. The facsimile network has reduced the amount of time and manpower necessary to communicate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

B. Investigation of Reports of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Organization of Protective Services Teams. The Division of Child Protection, of which the State Central Register is a part, is responsible for abuse and neglect investigations, institutional/foster

Table 8
Distribution by Region of Family Reports, Alleged Child Victims, and Harms
 Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Family Reports	Alleged Child Victims	Average No. of Victims Per Report	Harms	Average No. of Harms Per Victim
Rockford	2,651	4,347	1.63	5,697	1.31
Peoria	3,782	6,215	1.64	8,271	1.33
Aurora	6,031	9,656	1.60	12,891	1.33
Chicago	17,305	30,336	1.75	43,073	1.41
Springfield	2,513	4,165	1.65	5,466	1.31
Champaign	3,640	6,078	1.66	8,136	1.33
East St. Louis	3,115	5,566	1.78	7,880	1.41
Marion	2,461	4,059	1.64	5,451	1.34
TOTAL	41,498	70,422	1.69	96,865	1.37

Figure 4
Types of Abuse and Neglect Harms Reported
 Fiscal Year 1986

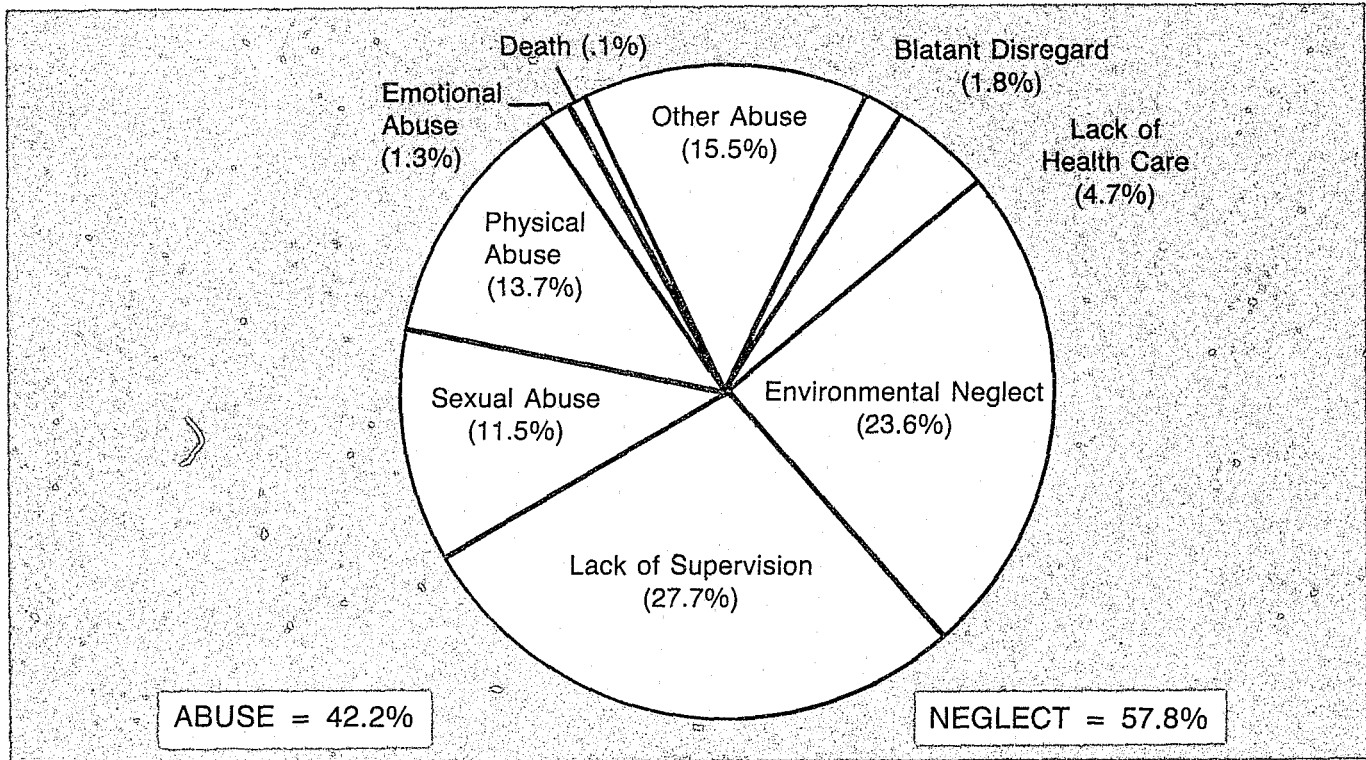


Table 9
Regional Distribution By Types of Reports
 Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Abuse		Neglect		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rockford	1,389	52.4	1,042	39.3	220	8.3
Peoria	2,009	53.1	1,460	38.6	313	8.3
Aurora	3,103	51.5	2,340	38.8	588	9.7
Chicago	7,555	43.7	7,837	45.3	1,913	11.1
Springfield	1,207	48.0	1,064	42.3	242	9.6
Champaign	1,751	48.1	1,501	41.2	388	10.7
East St. Louis	1,399	44.9	1,373	44.1	343	11.0
Marion	1,217	49.5	992	40.3	252	10.2
STATE	19,630	47.3	17,609	42.4	4,259	10.3

Table 10
Distribution of Reports by Allegation
Fiscal Year 1986

	Total Harms	Total Indicated Harms	Percent Indicated
ABUSE	40,855	20,124	49.3
I. Death	68	46	67.6
II. Physical Abuse	13,266	5,954	44.9
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	109	50	45.9
Subdural Hematoma	58	33	56.9
Internal Injuries	58	37	63.8
Burns/Scalding	909	239	26.3
Poison/Noxious Substance	39	22	56.4
Wounds	62	36	58.1
Bone Fractures	371	144	38.8
Cuts and Bruises	11,460	5,303	46.3
Human Bites	153	76	49.7
Sprains/Dislocations	47	14	29.8
III. Emotional Abuse	1,306	397	30.4
Tying/Close Confinement	467	165	35.3
Substance Misuse	690	167	24.2
Torture	97	39	40.2
Mental Injury	52	26	50.0
IV. Sexual Abuse	11,173	6,753	60.4
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	253	172	68.0
Sexual Penetration	4,093	2,496	61.0
Sexual Exploitation	1,183	646	54.6
Sexual Molestation	5,644	3,439	60.9
V. Other Abuse	15,042	6,974	46.4
Substantial Risk of Harm	15,042	6,974	46.4
NEGLECT	56,000	24,545	43.8
VI. Blatant Disregard	1,759	989	56.2
Death	79	35	44.3
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	66	40	60.6
Subdural Hematoma	16	11	68.8
Internal Injuries	10	5	50.0
Burns/Scalding	459	251	54.7
Poison/Noxious Substances	76	29	38.2
Wounds	20	12	60.0
Bone Fractures	106	60	56.6
Cuts and Bruises	436	233	53.4
Human Bites	32	15	46.9
Sprains/Dislocations	9	4	44.4
Substance Misuse	428	283	66.1
Mental Injury	22	11	50.0
VII. Lack of Supervision	26,851	12,408	46.2
Inadequate Supervision	25,208	11,723	46.5
Abandonment/Desertion	563	335	59.5
Lock Out	1,080	350	32.4
VIII. Environmental Neglect	22,879	9,063	39.6
Inadequate Food	6,952	1,652	23.8
Inadequate Shelter	3,272	1,703	52.0
Inadequate Clothing	1,531	480	31.4
Educational Neglect	2,253	1,347	59.8
Environmental Neglect	8,871	3,881	43.7
IX. Lack of Health Care	4,511	2,085	46.2
Medical Neglect	4,119	1,827	44.4
Failure to Thrive	325	214	65.8
Malnutrition	57	41	71.9
Disabled Infant Neglect	10	3	30.0
STATE TOTAL	96,855*	44,669	46.1

* Does not include 10 allegations that were incorrectly recorded.

Table 11
Children Taken Into Temporary Protective Custody
 Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Number Children Reported	No. of Children Taken Into Protective Custody	No. of Protective Custody Reports	% of Children Taken Into Protective Custody
Rockford	4,347	319	209	7.3
Peoria	6,215	554	355	8.9
Aurora	9,656	693	494	7.2
Chicago	30,336	2,901	1,764	9.6
Springfield	4,165	274	179	6.6
Champaign	6,078	551	348	9.1
East St. Louis	5,566	339	213	6.1
Marion	4,059	325	208	8.0
TOTAL	70,422	5,956	3,770	8.5

- "Reasonable efforts to stop abuse" has been added to the definition of abuse. The term is defined as those actions which could have stopped abuse of a child without posing an imminent threat to the person's own safety. (Minors, for example, are not expected to intervene between an adult and another child.)

3. Temporary Protective Custody. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act authorizes taking temporary protective custody of a child (that is, removing a child from his home) by Department investigators, law enforcement officers, and phy-

sicians. Temporary protective custody is taken if a child is in imminent danger of abuse and/or neglect. The decision to take such custody must be reviewed by an appropriate court within 48 hours.

During fiscal year 1986, 5,956 children were taken into temporary protective custody (Table 11). This total represents 8.5 percent of all children reported as victims of suspected abuse and/or neglect. The Chicago Region had the highest percent of temporary protective custodies and the East St. Louis Region had the lowest.

IV. Results of Investigations

A. Finding Status of Reports

Within 14 days of receipt of a report, the investigator must send a detailed preliminary report to the State Central Register to update computer files. A follow-up disposition report must be completed by the investigator within 60 days, although one 30-day extension may be granted in special circumstances. A major objective of the Division of Child Protection is to complete investigations within 10 working days in order to minimize the impact of an investigation on families.

A follow-up disposition report may be classified in one of three categories: undetermined, un-

founded, or indicated. A report is classified as undetermined if the investigator could not make a decision within 60 days and has requested a 30-day extension. At the end of the additional 30 days, the investigator must either "unfound" or "indicate" the report.

If a report is unfounded, the report by law must be expunged from the computer system, and all files at the State Central Register must be destroyed. If indicated, the report remains in the computer for at least five years. Notification letters of the findings are sent to all alleged perpetrators and mandated reporters involved in the report.

Of the 41,498 family reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in fiscal year 1986, the Department found that abuse and neglect were indicated in 20,143 reports. Involved as victims of indicated abuse and neglect were 33,959 children, an average of 1.7 children per indicated family report. The regional distribution of alleged child victims and indicated investigations can be noted in Table 12. For county distribution, see Table 12A.

The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect estimated that 7.6 children per 1,000 are victims of substantiated

reports of abuse and neglect.¹ Illinois' indicated rate of 10.5 per 1,000 is higher than national estimates. The percentage of indicated family reports varied from 42.9 percent in the Springfield Region to 52.4 percent in the Chicago Region (Table 13). Variances among regions may be due to the actual incidence of child abuse and neglect in a given area or to socioeconomic factors. County distribution is shown in Table 13A.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Figure 6
Percent of Indicated Harms
Fiscal Year 1986

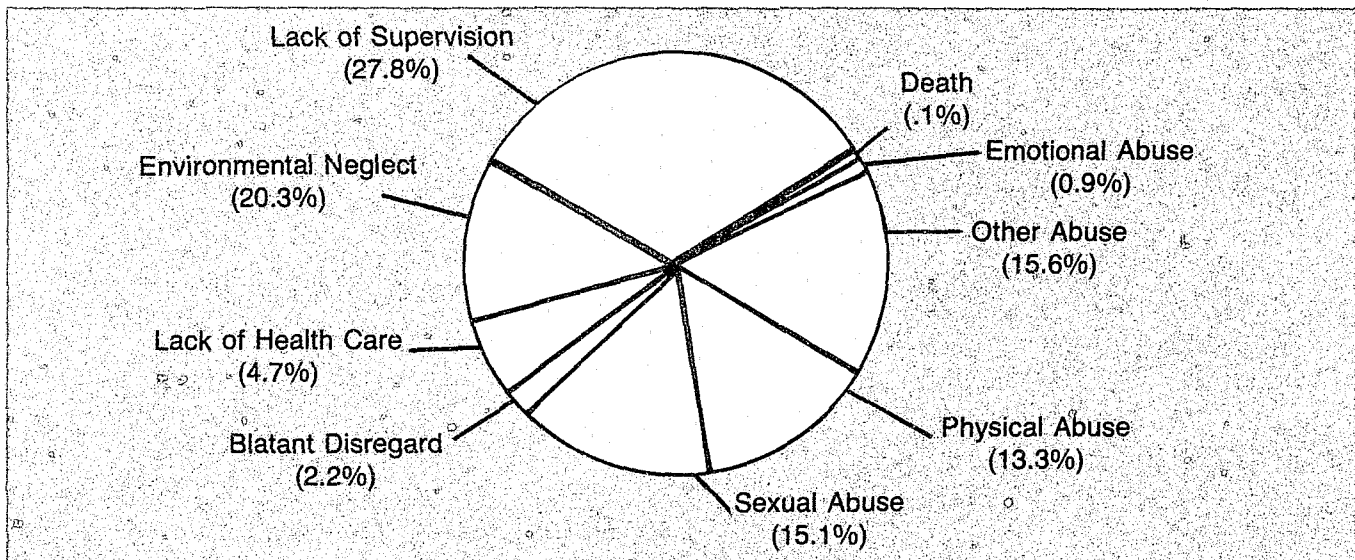


Table 12
Regional Distribution of Child Victims
in Indicated Investigations
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Indicated Investigations	Indicated Child Victims	Child Victims Per Indicated Investigation	Child Victims Per 1,000 Children Under 16 Years Old
Rockford	1,309	2,233	1.7	13.0
Peoria	1,666	2,780	1.7	10.2
Aurora	2,783	4,426	1.6	7.1
Chicago	9,076	15,440	1.7	10.6
Springfield	1,077	1,824	1.7	11.3
Champaign	1,737	2,981	1.7	14.2
East St. Louis	1,411	2,507	1.8	13.3
Marion	1,084	1,768	1.6	11.7
STATE	20,143	33,959	1.7	10.5

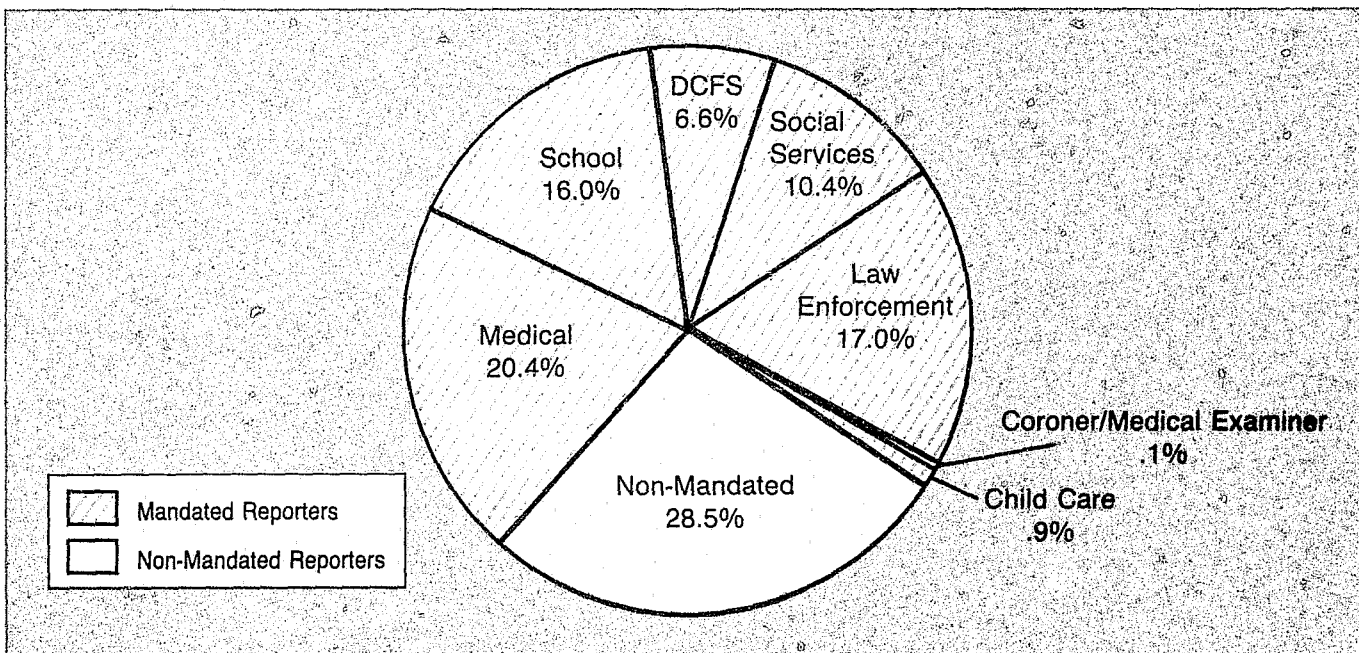
Table 12A
County Distribution of Child Victims
in Indicated Investigations
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Child Reports	Reporting Rate Per 1,000	Indicated Child Reports	Indicated Rate Per 1,000	County	Child Reports	Reporting Rate Per 1,000	Indicated Child Reports	Indicated Rate Per 1,000
Adams	510	25.8	193	9.8	Livingston	260	23.1	144	12.8
Alexander	223	62.2	88	24.5	Logan	184	23.0	105	13.1
Bond	73	17.2	32	7.5	Macon	1,247	32.7	524	13.7
Boone	183	20.1	82	9.0	Macoupin	342	25.0	176	12.8
Brown	37	25.1	13	8.8	Madison	1,956	27.9	834	11.9
Bureau	236	21.0	105	9.4	Marion	432	35.1	227	18.5
Calhoun	14	8.6	8	4.9	Marshall	50	11.9	14	3.3
Carroll	101	19.3	61	11.6	Mason	184	31.1	88	14.9
Cass	89	20.7	43	10.0	Massac	138	35.3	81	20.7
Champaign	1,354	35.6	791	20.8	McDonough	255	32.6	120	15.3
Christian	277	26.8	115	11.1	McHenry	653	13.9	306	6.5
Clark	89	19.7	52	11.5	McLean	717	24.5	338	11.5
Clay	94	22.7	46	11.1	Menard	74	21.7	28	8.2
Clinton	122	11.9	51	5.0	Mercer	72	12.2	21	3.6
Coles	483	41.3	249	21.3	Monroe	31	5.3	17	2.9
Cook	30,336	20.8	15,440	10.6	Montgomery	209	24.0	120	13.8
Crawford	125	23.1	53	9.8	Morgan	253	25.1	113	11.2
Cumberland	72	21.7	44	13.3	Moultrie	88	22.0	55	13.7
DeKalb	403	23.5	213	12.4	Ogle	296	21.0	161	11.4
DeWitt	114	22.3	43	8.4	Peoria	1,520	26.8	741	13.0
Douglas	115	20.3	64	11.3	Perry	96	15.6	38	6.2
DuPage	1,603	8.2	690	3.5	Piatt	61	12.5	28	5.7
Edgar	202	33.9	122	20.5	Pike	84	16.7	23	4.6
Edwards	28	13.1	11	5.2	Pope	24	19.9	9	7.5
Effingham	195	20.1	75	7.7	Pulaski	84	31.8	20	7.6
Fayette	135	22.4	55	9.1	Putnam	12	6.6	8	4.4
Ford	92	22.1	48	11.5	Randolph	177	18.8	67	7.1
Franklin	243	21.2	83	7.3	Richland	130	27.5	45	9.5
Fulton	303	24.6	166	13.5	Rock Island	1,228	26.2	472	10.1
Gallatin	41	19.3	23	10.8	Saline	241	34.1	111	15.7
Greene	86	18.4	35	7.5	Sangamon	1,532	31.7	634	13.1
Grundy	117	12.6	39	4.2	Schuyler	43	19.0	29	12.8
Hamilton	41	18.0	11	4.8	Scott	34	20.7	13	7.9
Hancock	113	17.1	43	6.5	Shelby	139	20.2	66	9.6
Hardin	48	33.2	15	10.4	St. Clair	3,157	37.6	1,484	17.7
Henderson	53	19.9	11	4.1	Stark	28	13.1	10	4.7
Henry	251	14.3	90	5.1	Stephenson	320	22.9	157	11.2
Iroquois	188	20.2	96	10.3	Tazewell	862	21.5	389	9.7
Jackson	392	31.1	192	15.2	Union	152	36.8	55	13.3
Jasper	61	18.4	30	9.0	Vermilion	857	31.3	317	11.6
Jefferson	287	28.1	140	13.7	Wabash	77	20.3	36	9.5
Jersey	100	16.8	45	7.6	Warren	112	18.0	77	12.3
Jo Daviess	112	15.5	49	6.8	Washington	50	11.9	22	5.2
Johnson	73	30.3	27	11.2	Wayne	101	21.2	45	9.5
Kane	2,255	25.7	1,130	12.9	White	120	27.8	51	11.8
Kankakee	837	26.3	395	12.4	Whiteside	491	24.4	243	12.1
Kendall	124	9.9	55	4.4	Will	1,756	16.3	642	6.0
Knox	465	28.2	208	12.6	Williamson	353	23.9	133	9.0
Lake	2,311	17.3	1,169	8.7	Winnebago	2,185	29.4	1,141	15.3
LaSalle	689	22.4	301	9.8	Woodford	79	7.6	47	4.5
Lawrence	125	26.4	58	14.4					
Lee	256	24.6	126	12.1	STATE	70,422	21.7	33,959	10.5

Table 13
Results of Investigations of Family Reports by Region and Type of Report
 Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Total Reports	Number of Indicated Reports				Percent of Reports Indicated			
		Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both	Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both
Rockford	2,651	1,309	708	482	119	49.4	51.0	46.3	54.1
Peoria	3,782	1,666	908	561	197	44.1	45.2	38.4	62.9
Aurora	6,031	2,783	1,437	961	385	46.1	46.3	41.1	65.5
Chicago	17,305	9,076	4,016	3,857	1,203	52.4	53.2	49.2	62.9
Springfield	2,513	1,077	495	440	142	42.9	41.0	41.4	58.7
Champaign	3,640	1,737	855	654	228	47.7	48.8	43.6	58.8
East St. Louis	3,115	1,411	654	569	188	45.3	46.7	41.4	54.8
Marion	2,461	1,084	549	393	142	44.0	45.1	39.6	56.3
STATE	41,498	20,143	9,622	7,917	2,604	48.5	49.0	45.0	51.1

Figure 7
Source of Indicated Reports
 Fiscal Year 1986



Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect made by court/law enforcement personnel had the highest rate (66.5 percent) of all reporting sources. The indicated rates by reporting sources can be noted in Table 14 and Figure 7. The indicated rate for all mandated reporters was 58.8 percent, compared to that of non-mandated reporters, 35.1 percent.

Of the 96,865 reported harms as a result of alleged

abuse and neglect investigated by the Department, 44,669 (46.1 percent) were indicated.

As noted in Table 10, abuse harms accounted for only 42.2 percent of the total reported allegations, but 49.3 percent of the abuse harms were indicated. Only 43.8 percent of all reported neglect harms were indicated. Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of all indicated harms in the major abuse and neglect categories.

Table 13A
County Distribution of
Indicated Family Reports
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Total Family Reports	Indicated Family Reports	County	Total Family Reports	Indicated Family Reports
Adams	331	126	Livingston	164	96
Alexander	119	45	Logan	107	57
Bond	41	22	Macon	714	294
Boone	110	47	Macoupin	196	98
Brown	17	8	Madison	1,165	505
Bureau	130	55	Marion	256	138
Calhoun	9	5	Marshall	30	9
Carroll	64	30	Mason	107	48
Cass	53	24	Massac	83	45
Champaign	780	432	McDonough	166	74
Christian	162	72	McHenry	416	202
Clark	56	32	McLean	446	203
Clay	58	25	Menard	49	19
Clinton	68	31	Mercer	41	12
Coles	309	164	Monroe	26	15
Cook	17,305	9,076	Montgomery	103	55
Crawford	84	36	Morgan	151	66
Cumberland	37	22	Moultrie	50	27
DeKalb	245	118	Ogle	159	77
DeWitt	70	26	Peoria	891	421
Douglas	66	30	Perry	67	28
DuPage	1,103	480	Piatt	37	16
Edgar	117	67	Pike	61	21
Edwards	18	9	Pope	15	8
Effingham	124	48	Pulaski	52	14
Fayette	67	27	Putnam	10	6
Ford	67	35	Randolph	112	45
Franklin	150	52	Richland	75	31
Fulton	183	93	Rock Island	792	295
Gallatin	29	15	Saline	140	69
Greene	60	26	Sangamon	938	379
Grundy	77	31	Schuyler	22	14
Hamilton	28	9	Scott	16	5
Hancock	62	23	Shelby	80	35
Hardin	22	9	St. Clair	1,667	776
Henderson	35	7	Stark	17	6
Henry	150	57	Stephenson	209	100
Iroquois	121	59	Tazewell	525	237
Jackson	251	116	Union	90	28
Jasper	33	17	Vermillion	526	199
Jefferson	185	90	Wabash	57	25
Jersey	69	31	Warren	78	49
Jo Daviess	67	30	Washington	36	17
Johnson	44	17	Wayne	56	29
Kane	1,350	646	White	72	33
Kankakee	472	225	Whiteside	290	145
Kendall	80	35	Will	1,109	420
Knox	288	129	Williamson	221	87
Lake	1,424	744	Winnebago	1,352	685
LaSalle	395	187	Woodford	51	29
Lawrence	65	34			
Lee	155	77	STATE	41,498	20,143

Table 14
Indicated Reports: Sources by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chlcago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State
MANDATED									
Clinic or Hospital Physician	22	23	70	842	15	31	9	16	1,028
Nurse (LPN)	0	8	6	16	2	4	1	6	43
Nurse (RN)	61	125	218	668	52	100	86	56	1,366
Private Physician	15	32	38	99	12	20	11	16	243
Hospital Social Worker	46	37	132	1,047	41	71	123	20	1,517
Other Medical Personnel	11	5	10	78	9	11	13	3	140
Total Medical	155	230	474	2,750	131	237	243	117	4,337
School Counselor	39	20	76	137	17	34	21	13	357
Principal	57	70	157	411	58	115	55	46	969
School Nurse	77	27	87	99	16	28	40	31	405
School Social Worker	39	29	211	418	15	49	41	16	818
Teacher	30	42	41	139	35	33	35	36	391
Assistant Principal	3	6	7	61	1	6	7	4	95
Truant Officer	18	5	15	120	2	1	9	4	174
Other School Personnel	14	27	38	58	11	21	15	8	192
Total School Personnel	277	226	632	1,443	155	287	223	158	3,401
DCFS Investigator	46	33	22	70	29	55	43	27	325
DCFS Investigative Supervisor	2	2	2	15	3	3	3	2	32
DCFS Follow-up Worker	57	74	74	386	55	76	94	70	886
DCFS Licensing Worker	7	1	0	3	1	0	3	1	16
DCFS Resource Worker	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	1	7
DCFS Adoption Worker	1	0	1	2	3	1	2	2	10
DCFS Homemaker	17	19	3	2	20	10	2	3	76
DCFS Institutional Worker				0			1	0	1
Other DCFS Personnel	8	6	1	16	3	8	5	2	49
Total DCFS Personnel	138	137	103	495	117	153	153	106	1,402
Department of Corrections Staff				0	0	1			1
Department of Public Aid Staff	13	4	14	56	7	7	12	13	126
Institutional Staff	2	2	3	11	1	2	3	1	25
Mental Health Personnel	26	25	29	73	32	46	16	37	284
Private Agency Social Worker	61	76	118	356	25	52	43	40	776
Psychologist	6	18	29	56	5	5	9	6	134
Other Social Services	62	116	111	356	39	101	44	41	870
Total Social Services	170	241	304	908	109	214	132	138	2,216
Court		2	2	15		3	1		23
Emergency Services Staff			2	1			0		3
Parole/Probation Officer	10	11	18	66	6	9	4	5	129
Police Officer	191	298	470	720	172	251	172	188	2,462
State's Attorney	5	11	13	15	2	13	2	6	67
Juvenile Officer	14	60	109	480	32	52	27	6	780
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	7	11	29	38	15	15	12	14	141
Total Law Enforcement	227	393	643	1,335	227	343	218	219	3,605
Coroner		1	2	1	1	1			6
Medical Examiner			1	20					21
Total Coroner/Medical Examiner		1	3	21	1	1			27
Day Care/Night Care Center	24	10	11	53	12	16	12	11	149
Day Care/Night Care Home	1	2	2	0	3	3	0	0	11
Pre-School/Nursery School	2	3	4	10	1	8	2	2	32
Total Child Care Centers	27	15	17	63	16	27	14	13	192
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	994	1,243	2,176	7,015	756	1,262	983	751	15,180
NON-MANDATED									
Father/Father Substitute	35	42	59	166	28	39	37	19	425
Friend/Neighbor	106	135	189	564	99	157	120	94	1,444
Mother/Mother Substitute	54	90	134	301	64	83	62	66	854
Relative	82	75	168	1,039	79	93	124	86	1,746
Sibling	1	4	5	28		2	3	1	44
Victim	3	10	16	84	5	15	8	10	151
Total Relative/Neighbor	281	356	571	2,162	275	389	354	276	4,664
Non-Center/Home Child Care	1	2	2	3		1		1	10
Babysitter	2	8	20	11	3	6	9	9	68
Other Child Care Provider	6	7	1	9	1	2	2	2	30
Landlord	3	9	23	46	10	16	4	6	117
Anonymous	47	72	91	369	60	92	88	57	876
Other Reporting Source	20	25	39	89	19	32	26	23	273
Unknown				4		1	2		7
Total Other	79	123	176	531	93	150	131	98	1,381
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	360	479	747	2,693	368	539	485	374	6,045
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	1,354	1,722	2,923	9,708	1,124	1,801	1,468	1,125	21,225

B. Fatalities

Child abuse and neglect can result in permanent physical, emotional, and mental damage to a child. The more severe forms may result in the child's death.

The Chicago Region, which has 45.1 percent of the state's 0-18-year-old population, accounted for 58.8 percent of child abuse and neglect deaths over the past six fiscal years. The lowest number of deaths has consistently been recorded in the Rockford Region.

More than three-fourths of all child abuse and neglect deaths involve children under the age of 3 (Table 16). The child victim has most often been a male (56.5 percent) and most often black (56.5 percent).

The number of child fatalities resulting from abuse and neglect for the past six fiscal years is presented in Table 15.

Table 15
Indicated Death Reports by Region
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

Region	FY81	FY82	FY83	FY84	FY85	FY86
Rockford	2	1	1	3	1	2
Peoria	1	5	7	5	3	6
Aurora	9	6	7	4	7	8
Chicago	61	51	36	31	34	42
Springfield	4	1	1	1	1	6
Champaign	4	1	11	3	2	8
East St. Louis	18	9	2	5	1	2
Marion	2	5	1	2	5	6
STATE	101	79*	66	54	54*	80*

*Amended

Table 16
Characteristics of Indicated Abuse/Neglect Deaths
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986

Age of Child	Number Indicated	Number Males	Number Females	Number White	Number Black	Number Spanish	Number Other	Number Unknown Race
00	195	108	87	71	107	12	3	2
01	93	59	34	28	56	8	1	0
02	47	22	25	14	29	4	0	0
03	29	15	14	11	14	3	0	1
04	15	12	3	3	11	0	1	0
05	20	11	9	6	13	1	0	0
06 - 12	27	13	14	9	13	4	1	0
13 - 17	8	5	3	6	2	0	0	0
STATE	434	245	189	148	245	32	6	3

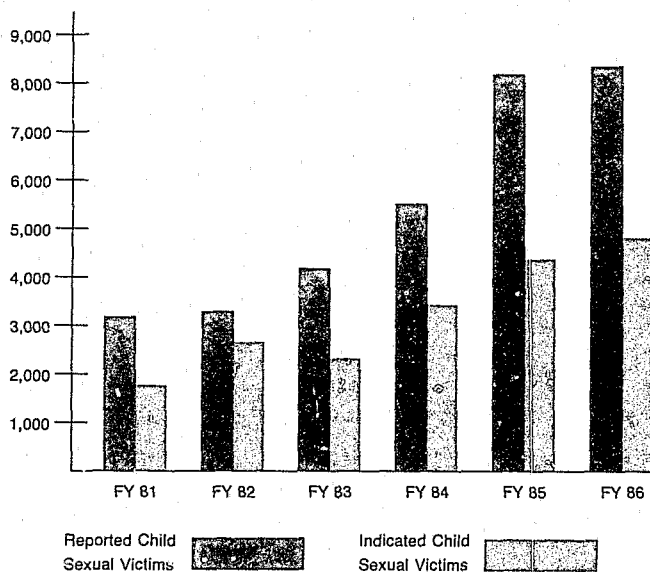
C. Sexual Abuse Reports

The actual number of sexually abused children in Illinois (and in the United States) is unknown. A child victim may not disclose a sexual assault for fear of rejection, blame, or punishment. Parents themselves may not report the sexual abuse of their child, fearing that an investigation of the incident would be more damaging than any physical or emotional harm the child might have

experienced from the assault. While national estimates of sexual abuse of children are approximately 7 percent of all reported child abuse, the true incidence may be much higher.

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of sexual abuse has increased dramatically over the past six fiscal years (Table 17). Increased public awareness of child sexual abuse has contributed to this growth. Television programs, newspaper columns, magazine articles, and other media activities have focused on the subject.

Table 17
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Victims
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1986



During fiscal year 1986, 8,397 Illinois children were alleged to have been sexually abused (Tables 17A and 17B). In other words, 11.9 percent of all alleged child abuse and/or neglect victims were reported as being sexually abused by a parent, an immediate family member, a paramour of the child's parent, an individual residing in the same home as the child, or another person responsible for the child's welfare. Investigations by the Department of sexual abuse reports found credible evidence that 4,902 children reported were in fact sexually abused.

Although the majority of indicated fiscal year 1986 sexual abuse reports involved a white female age 10 years or older (Table 18), the 3-9-year-old group is almost as vulnerable to sexual assault.

During fiscal year 1986, a natural parent was indicated in the sexual abuse of a child in approximately one out of every three child reports (Table 19A). A combination of natural parents, step-parents, and parental substitutes accounted for

Table 17A
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports and Alleged Child Victims by Region
Fiscal Year 1986

Region	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Rockford	627	396	63.2	68
Peoria	883	498	56.4	83
Aurora	1,207	693	57.4	116
Chicago	3,124	1,895	60.7	279
Springfield	480	268	55.8	31
Champaign	828	489	59.1	87
East St. Louis	680	353	51.9	50
Marion	568	310	54.6	58
STATE	8,397	4,902	58.4	772

Table 17B
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports
Alleged Child Victims by County
Fiscal Year 1986

County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies	County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Adams	52	23	44.2	3	Livingston	63	31	49.2	2
Alexander	26	10	38.5	4	Logan	24	14	58.3	2
Bond	13	4	30.8	0	Macon	200	102	51.0	17
Boone	19	14	73.7	5	Macoupin	49	35	71.4	2
Brown	1	1	100.0	0	Madison	249	125	50.2	14
Bureau	49	33	67.3	4	Marion	50	30	60.0	10
Calhoun	1	0	0.0	0	Marshall	12	5	41.7	0
Carroll	22	17	77.3	3	Mason	19	13	68.4	0
Cass	8	5	62.5	0	Massac	12	6	50.0	1
Champaign	142	98	69.0	24	McDonough	35	15	45.7	4
Christian	41	21	51.2	1	McHenry	89	56	62.9	9
Clark	11	7	63.6	1	McLean	89	64	71.9	11
Clay	11	7	63.6	1	Menard	9	3	33.3	2
Clinton	14	11	78.6	0	Mercer	13	6	46.2	0
Coles	61	37	60.7	3	Monroe	9	6	66.7	1
Cook	3,124	1,895	60.7	279	Montgomery	38	33	86.8	3
Crawford	15	7	46.7	1	Morgan	34	19	55.9	1
Cumberland	15	10	66.7	1	Moultrie	3	3	100.0	0
DeKalb	67	44	65.7	8	Ogle	63	32	50.8	5
DeWitt	10	5	50.0	0	Peoria	175	95	54.3	24
Douglas	22	11	50.0	1	Perry	12	7	58.3	1
DuPage	223	127	57.0	6	Piatt	16	9	56.3	0
Edgar	20	11	55.0	3	Pike	11	7	63.6	1
Edwards	7	5	71.4	0	Pope	9	6	66.7	0
Effingham	20	10	50.0	1	Pulaski	10	3	30.0	1
Fayette	22	7	31.8	0	Putnam	6	5	83.3	0
Ford	17	11	64.7	2	Randolph	29	10	34.5	3
Franklin	44	25	56.8	4	Richland	14	7	50.0	3
Fulton	48	26	54.2	3	Rock Island	198	106	53.5	15
Gallatin	6	3	50.0	1	Saline	31	11	35.5	1
Greene	9	4	44.4	1	Sangamon	152	73	48.0	8
Grundy	15	9	60.0	4	Schuyler	7	5	71.4	1
Hamilton	9	5	55.6	0	Scott	2	1	50.0	0
Hancock	13	7	53.8	3	Shelby	16	10	62.5	0
Hardin	4	3	75.0	2	St. Clair	358	192	53.6	31
Henderson	8	3	37.5	0	Stark	4	2	50.0	0
Henry	27	17	63.0	0	Stephenson	44	24	54.5	3
Iroquois	26	17	65.4	3	Tazewell	114	59	51.8	13
Jackson	60	42	70.0	2	Union	20	6	30.0	0
Jasper	15	12	80.0	3	Vermilion	117	63	53.8	15
Jefferson	41	21	51.2	4	Wabash	13	9	69.2	3
Jersey	10	4	40.0	3	Warren	30	25	83.3	5
Jo Daviess	16	11	68.8	2	Washington	8	5	62.5	1
Johnson	5	1	20.0	1	Wayne	21	15	71.4	3
Kane	264	157	59.5	21	White	20	15	75.0	6
Kankakee	85	41	48.2	9	Whiteside	94	72	76.6	8
Kendall	15	8	53.3	2	Will	223	129	57.8	26
Knox	58	32	55.2	4	Williamson	53	27	50.9	5
LaSalle	94	61	64.9	9	Winnebago	259	148	57.1	31
Lake	293	165	56.7	40	Woodford	12	7	58.3	3
Lawrence	18	10	55.6	0					
Lee	43	34	79.1	3					
					STATE	8,307	4,902	58.4	772

Table 18
Demographic Characteristics of
Children in Indicated
Sexual Abuse Reports Only
 Fiscal Year 1986

Child Characteristics	Number	Percent
<u>Age of Child</u>		
0-2	238	4.9
3-5	998	20.4
6-9	1,224	25.0
10-13	1,236	25.2
14-17	1,190	24.3
Age not reported	16	.3
TOTAL	4,902	100.0
<u>Sex of Child</u>		
Boys	955	19.5
Girls	3,939	80.4
Sex not reported	8	.2
TOTAL	4,902	100.0
<u>Child's Ethnic Group</u>		
White	3,224	65.8
Black	1,260	25.7
Hispanic	322	6.6
Other/not reported	96	2.0
TOTAL	4,902	100.0

Table 19A
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators
by Relationship to Child Victim
in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
 Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 7,006	Percent of Involvement
Relationship	
Natural Parent	34.0
Step-Parent	11.3
Other	12.9
Parental Substitute	9.2
Babysitter	9.3
Sibling	7.4
Aunt/Uncle	8.2
Grandparent	5.0
Adoptive Parent	1.1
Foster Parent	.9
Day Care Staff	.1
Group Home/Institution Staff	.6
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 19B
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Sex
in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
 Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4,877	Percent of Involvement
Sex	
Male	78.9
Female	18.8
Not Identified	2.3
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19C
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age
in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
 Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4,877	Percent of Involvement
Age Group	
Under 20	18.2
20-30	20.9
30-40	28.8
40-50	13.3
Over 50	8.8
Not Identified	10.0
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19D
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race
in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
 Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 4877	Percent of Involvement
Race	
White	62.4
Black	26.2
Spanish	6.6
Other	.7
Not Identified	4.1
TOTAL	100.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

more than half of all indicated sexual abuse perpetrators.

The perpetrator in 78.9 percent of sexual abuse cases was male. (See Table 19B.) Age and racial characteristics of sexual abuse perpetrators are presented in Tables 19C and 19D. The most common age range for indicated perpetrators was between 30 and 40 (28.8 percent). Most perpetrators (62.4 percent) were white.

D. Perpetrators

Each family report of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to the State Central Register may contain multiple alleged perpetrators and child victims. The perpetrator-child relationship may also vary in a single family report (e.g., the perpetrator may be the natural parent of one child victim and a step-parent of another child victim in the family). In addition, a perpetrator may abuse or neglect more than one child within the family. Data presented in Tables 20, 21 and 22, therefore, contain duplicated counts of the perpetrator if the perpetrator abused or neglected more than one child within the family.

A natural parent was most often indicated as perpetrator in all reports. During fiscal year 1986,

75.0 percent of all indicated child victims were abused and/or neglected by natural parent(s). Nearly three-quarters of the time, the natural mother was the perpetrator. Natural fathers were more likely to be indicated for abuse of a child rather than for neglect. The cultural role of the mother in a family—being responsible for the physical care of the children, while the father is responsible for discipline—may affect the apparently disproportionate representation of natural parent perpetrators. In addition, 18.4 percent of all families with children under age 18 in Illinois are headed by a female with no husband present.

In all other perpetrator-child relationship groups, males are more likely to be indicated for abuse of the child, while females are more likely to be indicated for neglect.

The majority of all perpetrators are between the ages of 20 and 40 (Table 23), with more than one-third of all perpetrators between ages 20 and 30. For male perpetrators, indicated rates generally increase with age, while for female perpetrators rates decrease with age.

Since black children are disproportionately reported as being abused or neglected, black perpetrators are also disproportionately represented.

Table 20
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship
to Child Victim in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 45,204 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 17,512 Percent Male	N = 27,466 Percent Female
Natural Parent	75.0	26.8	73.1
Parental Substitute	5.5	91.8	8.1
Step-Parent	5.7	86.8	13.1
Babysitter	2.7	62.3	37.2
Aunt/Uncle	2.5	63.1	36.5
Sibling	1.7	82.6	17.1
Adoptive Parent	.6	60.8	39.2
Foster Parent	.7	44.4	55.6
Other	5.7	59.4	34.1
TOTAL	100.0	38.7	60.8

*Note: Each family report of suspected child abuse/neglect may contain up to four (4) caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) and up to ten (10) alleged child victims. The relationship of the caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) may vary among the alleged child victim(s). For example, a perpetrator is alleged to have abused five (5) children in the family. The perpetrator is the natural parent of one (1) child and the step-parent of the other four (4) children. "N" therefore, represents a duplicated count of each perpetrator to each child victim. The male and female categories above do not add up to a total of 45,204 because 226 reports did not specify the sex of the alleged perpetrator.

Within ethnic groups by sex, black females represent the largest proportion of indicated perpetrators (Table 24).

E. Service Delivery

The Division of Program Operations is responsible for the second major component of child protective services: the provision of services to remedy problems and to prevent harm to children. When an investigation results in an indicated finding, the investigative unit transfers the case to a service unit in the Division of Program Operations. Service

staff either provide or purchase the services that are needed to protect the child from harm. Whenever possible, the family unit is preserved intact as long as the child is safe. The Division of Program Operations pursues the fulfillment of its mission to protect and care for children in one of six goals in the family's service plans. These "permanency goals" define the direction and purpose of service plans as indicated by individual needs.

The six goals are:

- Family Preservation: Maintaining the child in the home is the preferred goal when the

Table 21
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship
to Child Victims in Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 20,266 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 11,733 Percent Male	N = 8,349 Percent Female
Natural Parent	59.6	41.3	58.6
Parental Substitute	8.8	93.3	6.6
Step-Parent	9.7	88.0	11.9
Babysitter	4.3	73.1	26.3
Aunt/Uncle	4.0	79.3	20.2
Sibling	3.2	89.3	10.4
Adoptive Parent	.9	67.6	32.4
Foster Parent	.8	50.6	49.4
Other	8.7	73.1	17.8
TOTAL	100.0	57.9	41.2

*Note. Duplicated Count

Table 22
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship
to Child Victim in Neglect Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 24,938 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 5,779 Percent Male	N = 19,117 Percent Female
Natural Parent	87.5	18.7	81.1
Parental Substitute	2.8	88.0	11.9
Step-Parent	2.5	83.2	16.8
Babysitter	1.4	35.8	63.9
Aunt/Uncle	1.4	24.9	75.1
Sibling	.4	35.5	64.5
Adoptive Parent	.3	41.5	58.5
Foster Parent	.5	36.4	63.6
Other	3.3	29.6	69.3
TOTAL	100.0	23.2	76.7

*Note: Duplicated Count

child's safety and well-being are assured.

- **Family Reunification:** Returning children to their parents' home is the preferred goal for children who have been placed in substitute care.
- **Adoption:** Adoption is the preferred permanency goal when the biological family is unwilling or unable to care for a child.
- **Long-Term Placement:** Long-term placement is generally not a preferred goal for a child since it fails to provide the child with a sense of continuity and belonging. Long-term placement is a goal only when a child over age 14 years does not want to be adopted, when the court refuses to terminate parental rights, or when relatives or foster parents commit themselves to raise the child to maturity.
- **Independence:** Independence may be a goal for mature older adolescents who have dem-

onstrated the ability to care for themselves, who do not wish to be adopted, and who have the potential to attain economic self-sufficiency.

- **Continuous Care:** A small percentage of the Department's wards have severe physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. Most often these children receive services in long-term facilities. The goal for them is the provision of humane continuous care.

The cluster of services provided by the service units to achieve a permanency goal may include counseling, homemaker services, protective day care, foster or residential care, and advocacy. Protective services are provided, arranged for, and monitored until it is deemed appropriate to terminate services according to the needs of the child/family and Department rules and procedures.

Table 23
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age
in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 25,276	N = 10,719		N = 14,376
Age Group	Percent	Percent Male	Percent Female
Under 20	9.1	44.2	55.6
20 - 30	37.1	31.1	68.8
30 - 40	30.8	43.4	56.4
40 - 50	9.9	59.1	40.9
Over 50	4.5	69.5	30.3
Not Identified	8.5	52.3	40.6
TOTAL	100.0	42.4	56.9

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 24
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race
in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1986

*N = 25,276	N = 10,719		N = 14,376
Race	Percent	Percent Male	Percent Female
White	56.5	48.8	51.1
Black	34.6	30.4	69.4
Spanish	6.2	50.7	49.0
Other	.9	51.3	48.3
Not Identified	1.8	39.3	30.5
TOTAL	100.0	42.4	56.9

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count; male and female numbers do not include 181 perpetrators whose sex is not known.

V. Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1986

A. The Division of Child Protection

The Department of Children and Family Services, through its Division of Child Protection, has received national recognition for successful innovative approaches to child protection investigations. Illinois was one of the first states to

implement the use of a risk assessment instrument during child protection investigations. This instrument, along with the Child Protection Investigations Handbook, has been put to good use in other states.

In fiscal year 1986, the Department's achievements in child protection include the following:

- Development of two publications, a Child Death Autopsy Protocol, for coroners and medical examiners, and Guidelines for Differentiating Accidental From Intentional Injuries, for medical professionals.
- Publication of a consumer child protection investigation brochure.
- Initiation of comprehensive changes in the training curriculum for child protection investigators.
- Upgrading of personnel classifications for child protection investigators.
- Installation of an updated computerized telephone system at the child abuse hotline.
- Establishment, for the first time, of a child protection manager for each region, to supervise child protection teams and licensing units in the region.
- Initiation of a major demonstration project in seven regions and the State Central Register, converting all investigative records to microfilm.
- Complete revision of all child protection investigative procedures as well as rules governing the program.

VI. Looking Ahead

The Division of Child Protection has established the following goals for fiscal year 1987:

- Convert new guidelines for child abuse/neglect investigations and licensing complaints to official DCP procedures.
- Develop a protocol for improving the professionalism of division staff.
- Establish an annual schedule for management development and a plan for field administration.
- Train community and Department staff on the new autopsy protocol and child injury guidelines.
- Complete microfilming of all historical records and establish a permanent system of microfilming.
- Standardize case preparation, hearing formats, written reports, and other similar activities.
- Develop a personality inventory profile of child abusers in group care facilities.
- Develop an employee support plan to prevent/reduce on-the-job stress.
- Coordinate and integrate all information on child/family victimization and prepare guidelines and procedures.
- Conduct selected in-depth reviews of the performance of individual child protection investigators and licensing representatives as needed or identified by division administrators.
- Develop a demonstration project using graphology for evaluation of DCP clients.
- Conduct a research project on seasonal variations in Central Register intake and investigative performance.
- Conduct research to assess responsiveness of hotline staff, review workloads and performance expectations, and assist in identifying operational problems.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the standard of evidence and formulate recommendations.
- Develop a legislative plan for the division for the next session of the Illinois General Assembly.

VII. Prevention

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has long recognized the need for prevention programs in its struggle to curb child abuse and neglect. With a steady rise in reports of child sexual abuse, and an alarming increase in statistics of physical abuse and neglect, the need for an effective, comprehensive prevention program requires little justification. It is well known that the problem of child maltreatment did not start with the current generation, nor will it end here. People who are abused as children will often become abusive parents, and a growing body of evidence indicates a strong link between adults with serious emotional problems, substance dependencies, and violent antisocial behavior, and children who have suffered non-accidental injury resulting in physical, emotional, and mental impairment. With this in mind, the Department has implemented several prevention programs which are not aimed at treating existing problems, but rather at improving family life by enhancing and promoting the positive qualities and strengths inherent in all individuals and families. Descriptions of the programs follow.

Child Abuse Prevention Fund: Created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1984, this program allows Illinois taxpayers to donate up to \$10 (\$20 for persons filing joint returns) of their state income tax refunds to support community prevention efforts.

Administered by DCFS, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund has reached approximately 80,000 participants. Services include community education, sexual abuse prevention education, parent helpline, parent aides, parenting training, and peer support groups.

Building Bridges: In an effort to get more schools involved in preventing and reporting sexual abuse, DCFS introduced its Building Bridges program—a model personal protection and sexual abuse prevention program designed for elementary school children. The aim of this project is to provide volunteers and child professionals with a comprehensive, concise, easy-to-use tool for instructing elementary-age children to identify and protect themselves against sexual victimization. DCFS conducted various workshops with parents and school staff in 1985.

In 1986 DCFS purchased sets of the curricula to be placed in school resource libraries and provided training to school personnel in their use. This curriculum series is now available throughout the state for use by schools in meeting their mandate to provide child safety education.

Parents Too Soon/Ounce of Prevention: Concerned with the magnitude and complexity of the issues surrounding teen sexuality, pregnancy, and parenting, a public/private partnership between DCFS and the Pittway Corporation Charitable Foundation emerged in 1982 to establish the Ounce of Prevention Fund for the purpose of preventing child abuse, neglect and other serious parenting problems. Out of this fund came about a model program, Parents Too Soon, to deal specifically with the problems of teen pregnancy.

Under the Parents Too Soon program, a full range of health, nutrition, educational/vocational, and support services are offered to adolescents with the common goal of preventing unplanned/premature pregnancy and the problems associated with it. The Department's components of this program are home visitors to young families with newborn children, day care, and a parenting training and support group. Based upon the success of the original model, the Ounce of Prevention Fund currently supports, monitors, and evaluates 28 comprehensive, community-based Parents Too Soon programs.

Heart to Heart: The Department and the Ounce of Prevention have developed a unique prevention program to prevent the sexual abuse of children of adolescent parents. Implemented through the young mothers' groups currently operated, Heart to Heart provides a variety of information and support services to ensure that these young women have the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent the sexual abuse of their children. It also provides a warm and supportive environment that allows these young mothers to discuss and begin to deal with their own abuse.

Heart to Heart is achieving remarkable success as a prevention and family support program, as well as a research vehicle on sexual abuse issues. It is gaining national recognition.

STATEWIDE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Catherine Ryan, Chair
Ryan & Miller, P.C.
Chicago

Nancy Cafcas, School Psychologist
South Metropolitan Association for
Low Incidence Handicapped
Flossmoor

Jon Conte, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
School of Social Services Administration
University of Chicago
Chicago

Captain Mary Ann Dunlavey
General Services Division
Peoria Police Department
Peoria

Charlotte Evans
Communications for Youth
Wayne

Fern Ferguson
Program Coordinator
Volunteers of America
East St. Louis

Lisa Franke, Chief Assistant
State's Attorney's Office
Belleville

Sharon Grill
Orland Park

Arvid Hammers, State Office Director
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Springfield

Robin Kelly-Hamilton, Director
Peoria Crisis Nursery
Peoria

Penny Kendall
National Advisory Committee to the
National Center on Child Abuse and
Neglect
Watseka

Howard B. Levy, M.D., Chairman
Department of Pediatrics
Mount Sinai Hospital
Chicago

Commander Joe P. Mayo
Youth Division
Chicago Police Department
Chicago

Sergeant Tim Moss
Carbondale Police Department
Carbondale

Nancy Peterson
Director, Chicago Council
National Committee for the Prevention
of Child Abuse
Chicago

Carmen Pikorz
Borg-Warner Corporation
Chicago

Katherine Robinson
Citizens' Council on Children
Springfield

Joan C. Scott, State's Attorney
Fulton County
Lewiston

Kathryn Zenoff
Assistant State's Attorney
Winnebago County
Rockford