

SAFE AT A GLANCE

2015

State of Fox Valley Children Report

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Winnebago and Calumet counties have twice the incidence of Child Protective Services (CPS) reports per 1,000 Population (38.7 and 32.1 respectively) than Calumet (16.5).
- Winnebago CPS reports also exceed Wisconsin (32.5)
- For all counties, 93% or more of the abusers were a child’s parent or guardian.

Lead Based Pain Exposure

- Tri-County has a significant number of older homes built before 1980, where lead based paint is likely still in use.
- Counties: Calumet (50%) the lowest, Outagamie (55.7%), and Winnebago (63%)
- Cities: Appleton (69.8%), Menasha (67.5%), Neenah (66.6%) and Oshkosh (68.8%)

Preventable Injury

Tri-County Emergency Department Visits:

- Unintentional falls - 43%, outpacing other injury types 2:1 and higher than the Wisconsin rate of 40.6%.
- “Struck by or against” injuries – 16.4%, exceeding the Wisconsin rate of 14.9%.

Childhood Lead Poisoning – 0 to 6

Blood level testing is only required of Medicaid and WIC participants and data is reported by local Health Department Jurisdiction. Of children tested:

- City of Menasha has the highest percentage of children with lead poisoning (5.5%), exceeding the Wisconsin rate of 4.5%.
- Winnebago ranks second in childhood lead poisoning (4.3%).
- City of Appleton and Outagamie County tied for third highest percentage of children with lead poisoning, (2.2%) each.
- Calumet County has the lowest percentage of lead poisoned children (1.9%).

Infant Mortality

- Overall, Tri-County infant mortality rates are lower than Wisconsin (5.9 per 1000 live births)
- Calumet (3.5) and Outagamie (5.1) county rates are lower than Wisconsin, Winnebago County (6.5) slightly higher than Wisconsin in infant mortality.

In Wisconsin abuse is defined as:

Physical Abuse

Physical injury inflicted on a child by other than accidental means. Physical injury includes, but is not limited to, lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising or great bodily harm.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual intercourse or sexual touching of a child, sexual exploitation, forced viewing of sexual activity, or permitting, allowing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution.

Emotional Damage

Harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning which is exhibited by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or aggression. Emotional damage may be demonstrated by substantial and observable changes in behavior, emotional response or learning which are incompatible with the child's age or stage of development.

Neglect

When a parent or caretaker fails, refuses or is unable, for reasons other than poverty, to provide the necessary care, food, clothing, medical or dental care which seriously endanger the physical health of the child.



Did You Know?

More than 4 children die every day as a result of child abuse. That's about a classroom a week.

Children exposed to violence in their family show the same pattern of activity in their brains as combat soldiers.

Young children are naturally fearless and curious in the first 5 years of life; testing and trying new things. At this age young children can walk, run, climb, jump, and explore the world around them. As a result the early years can be a very dangerous time in a child's life. Kitchens, bathrooms, stairways, and swimming pools are especially dangerous places for young children. Exposure to man-made chemicals, pollution, environmental waste, and firearms also pose serious safety threats. As do car crashes and preventable injuries, which are the leading causes of death in children under five years of age.

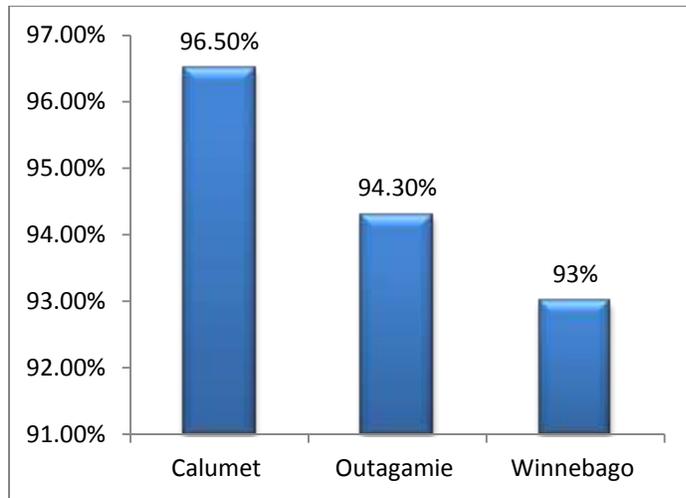
Child Abuse and Neglect

The United States has one of the worst child maltreatment records among industrialized nations – losing more than four children on average every day to child abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect take place in a child's social environment. Maltreatment is typically perpetrated by a close family member. The State of Wisconsin defines abuse as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional damage, and neglect. All of which are preventable.

Neglect is the *failure* to meet a child's basic needs, and it can happen in every development stage a child goes through. Child abuse is more than bruises and broken bones. It is an act against a child that results in serious physical harm, sexual harm, exploitation, or death.

Generally speaking, child neglect is the most common accusation, with physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse following behind (Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, 2013). Many people believe that probable perpetrators of child abuse are most likely to be the babysitter, neighbor or complete stranger, but this is a myth. As shown in Figure 9, the vast majority of abusers in the Tri-County area are primary caregivers (parents and guardians).

Figure 9. Percent of Abusers that were the Child's Parent or Guardian (2013-2014)



Source: Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago Counties. eWISACWIS. 2013-2014.

A child is considered to be a victim when an allegation of abuse is substantiated. The substantiation process is complex (see Appendix A) and begins with a Child Protective Services (CPS) referral which is either screened-out or screened-in for further investigation. A CPS report is created for each child who is identified in a screened-in referral as an alleged victim of child maltreatment or threatened maltreatment. All screened-in referrals subsequently receive a CPS Initial Assessment. The number of unique screened-in referrals can be smaller than the number of CPS maltreatment reports because one referral may include information about multiple children and each child in the referral is counted as a unique CPS report. For example, a referral from a community reporter may allege maltreatment against three children in a family. For purposes of this report, the CPS agency received one referral through the reporter’s phone contact with the CPS county agency; however, three CPS reports were created as there were three children who each had one or more maltreatment allegations. Table 5 shows the number of CPS maltreatment reports per 1,000 children by county. In Wisconsin, out of a population of 1,000 children approximately 33 were involved in a report of alleged maltreatment in 2014. In the Tri-County area, those rates were 38.7, 32.1 and 16.5 for Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties respectively.

Table 5. CPS Reports per 1,000 Children by County: Ages 0-17 years

County	2014 Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Numbers of CPS Reports	CPS Reports per 1,000 Population
Calumet	12,572	203	16.5
Outagamie	43,921	1,412	32.1
Winnebago	35,311	1,366	38.7
State	1,300,189	42,300	32.5

Source: Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report for 2014, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.