



THE NATIONAL COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION

National CASA Pre-Service Volunteer Training Curriculum

CHAPTER 2

Local/Program Handouts

Program Service Area Abuse and Neglect Statistics

Unsubstantiated vs. Substantiated

If a Children and Youth Services (CYS) investigation determines that the allegation of [child maltreatment](#) is *unsubstantiated* (also referred to as *unfounded*), this means that there is insufficient evidence for the caseworker to conclude that a child was abused or neglected, or that what happened does not meet the legal definition of child abuse or neglect.

Note that a finding of unsubstantiated or unfounded does not always mean that maltreatment did not occur. Instead, it may mean that there is not enough evidence to support a finding of [substantiated](#). If the case is determined to be unsubstantiated, the CYS agency may still provide services. In other cases, the family may be referred to a community provider for voluntary services. In some circumstances, the case may be [closed](#) with no further contact between the family and the CYS agency.

Statistics on Child Abuse (2018):

Washington County

- 14.4 out of every 1,000 children have reported abuse; that is 1.4% of kids •
- In 2018, 591 cases of child abuse were reported; 62 substantiated •
- A total of 2,631 reports for general protective services were made:
 - 855 reports screened out (not enough evidence, referral, no abuse/neglect)
 - 1,776 reports were assessed with 744 valid allegations
- Most common form of abuse is sexual, the next common is physical. Abuse is typically done by a parent or close family member.
- There were 0 fatalities and 1 near death

Drug Usage and Deaths:

- Accidental overdose deaths in Washington County for 2018-76
- Washington County had the state's second highest increase in opioid-related deaths from 2017 to 2018
- Washington County has the sixth-highest rate of hospitalizations for heroin overdoses in PA
- Fentanyl was the most frequently identified substance in drug-related overdose deaths (70 percent of deaths), remaining consistent with 2017. The younger population demographic was associated with fentanyl usage, as fentanyl was present in more than 75 percent of drug-related overdose decedents within the 15 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups.
- Heroin remained the second most frequently identified substance in drug-related overdose deaths (35 percent), followed by cocaine (33 percent), benzodiazepines (28 percent), and fentanyl-related substances (FRSs) (23 percent).
- Cocaine prevalence in drug-related overdose deaths did not change significantly from 2017 to 2018 (32 percent and 33 percent, respectively). Methamphetamine was detected in 10 percent of drug-related overdose deaths in 2018, compared to 7 percent in 2017. However, this is not a statistically significant change in methamphetamine presence.
- Drug overdose by gender: 57% male and 43% female
- Drug overdose age range with highest number of deaths in 2018 is 30-39 years.