

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



**Annual Data
Calendar Year 2023**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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ADA/EOE/AA

INTRODUCTION

The Child Abuse and Neglect Report (CAN) provides information from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Children and Family Services on reports of child abuse or neglect and their disposition. The Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) is responsible for receiving these reports and works with Law Enforcement when responding to them.

This report is published annually on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/CFS-Data-and-Reports.aspx>.

DATA SOURCE

The data presented in the following tables and charts represent the information entered in the N-Focus (Nebraska Family Online Client User System) information system. The data is extracted annually.

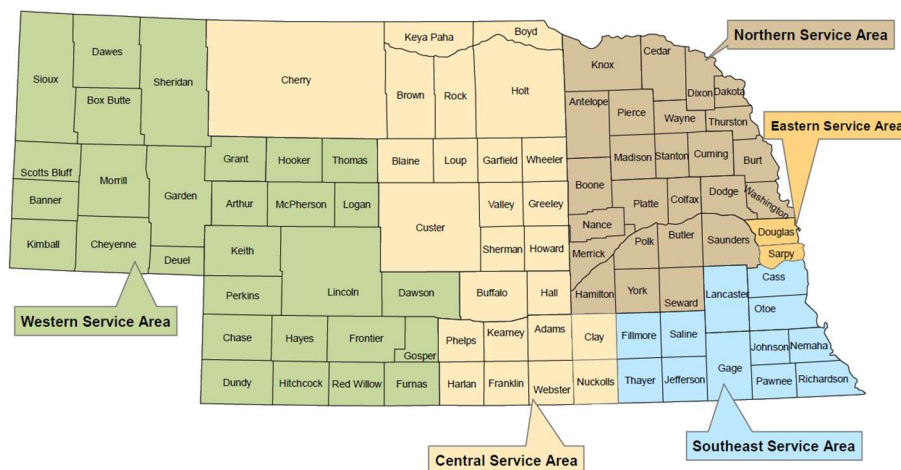
Data provided in this report represent Calendar Year (CY) data.

The Calendar Year 2023 (CY 2023) data was extracted on April 12, 2024.
The previous years' data were extracted on the following dates:

- CY 2013: April 14, 2014
- CY 2014: May 1, 2015
- CY 2015: May 5, 2016
- CY 2016: May 9, 2017
- CY 2017: May 3, 2018
- CY 2018: April 24, 2019
- CY 2019: May 18, 2020
- CY 2020: October 01, 2021
- CY2021: February 14, 2022
- CY2022: June 23, 2023

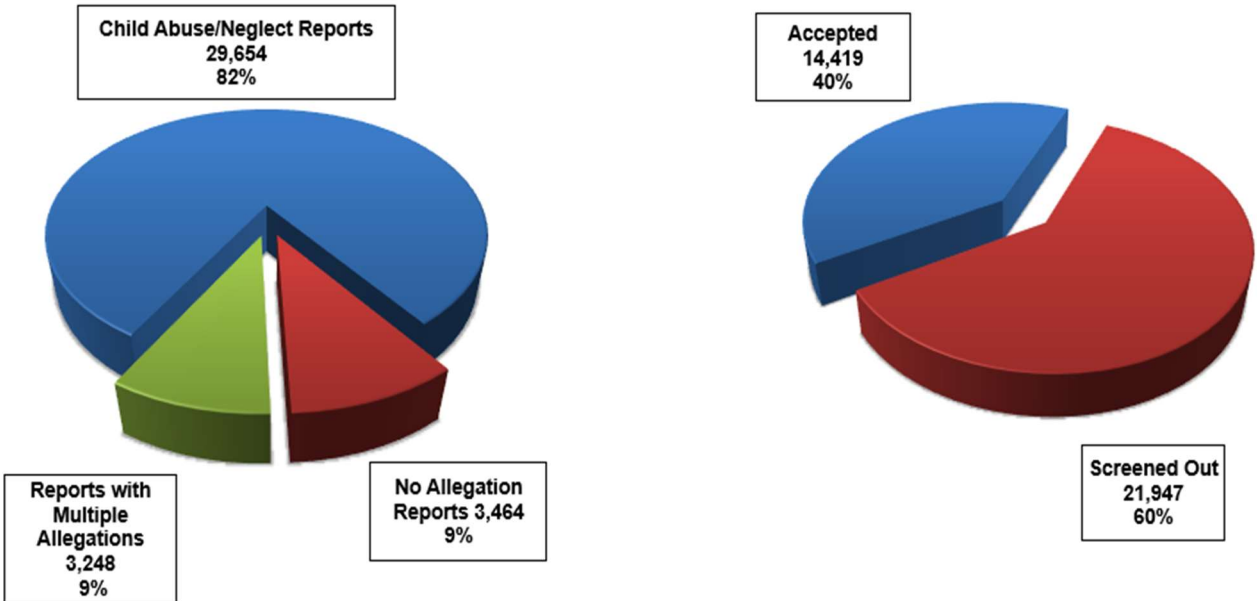
The Service Area maps in this report reflect changes in the Service Areas resulting from 2018 legislation (LB 821) effective July 1, 2018.

DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES SERVICE AREAS AS OF JULY 1, 2018



SECTION 1: INTAKE REPORTS

CHART 1-1: TOTAL REPORTS BY TYPE AND ACCEPTED OR SCREENED OUT



The charts above represent the reports related to child abuse received by the Department of Health and Human Services during Calendar Year 2023. There were a total of 36,366 reports categorized as follows:

- Child Abuse or Neglect Reports: 29,654 (82%)
- Reports with Multiple Allegations: 3,248 (9%)
- No Allegation Reports: 3,464 (9%)

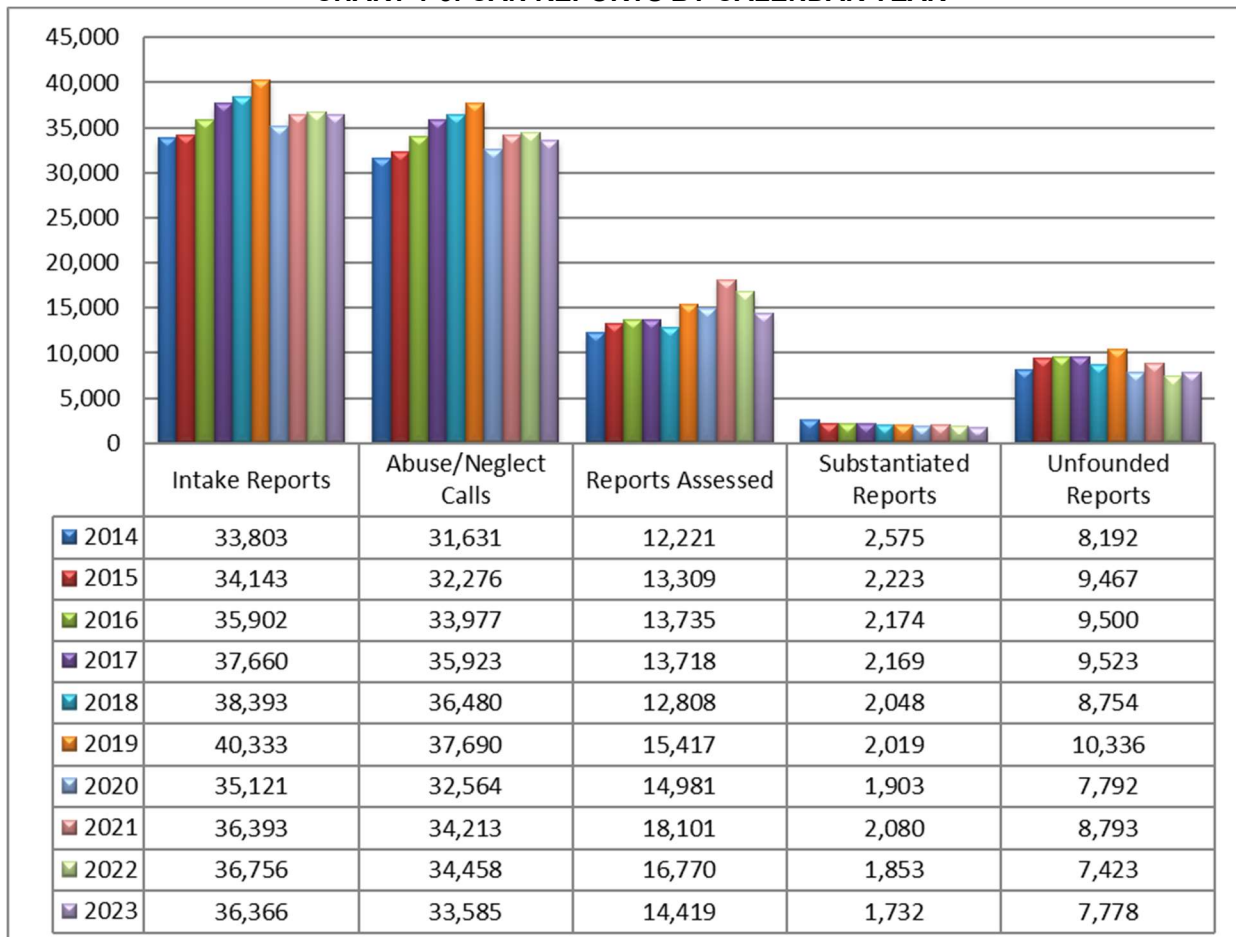
The pie chart on the right further categorizes the Child Abuse/Neglect reports and groups them as either Accepted or Screened Out. Screened Out reports did not meet the level of severity or definition of Child Abuse and Neglect that required assessment by a Children and Family Services Specialist.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screened Out: 21,947 (60%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 11,870 (54%) Neglect ▪ 6,278 (29%) Abuse ▪ 1,297 (6%) Both Abuse and Neglect ▪ 2,502 (11%) No Allegation Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted Reports: 14,419 (40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7,572 (53%) Neglect ▪ 3,934 (27%) Abuse ▪ 1,951 (14%) Both Abuse and Neglect ▪ 962 (7%) No Allegation Reports |
|---|--|

TABLE 1-2: CAN REPORTS ASSESSED, SUBSTANTIATED, AND SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS

STATEWIDE STATISTICS BY CALENDAR YEAR			
Calendar Year	Reports Assessed or in the Process of Assessment	Reports Substantiated	Unique Substantiated Victims
2014	12,221	2,575	4,137
2015	13,309	2,223	3,691
2016	13,735	2,174	3,725
2017	13,718	2,169	3,612
2018	12,808	2,048	3,346
2019	15,417	2,019	3,267
2020	14,981	1,903	3,224
2021	18,101	2,080	3,459
2022	16,770	1,853	3,052
2023	14,419	1,732	2,892

CHART 1-3: CAN REPORTS BY CALENDAR YEAR



* Substantiated includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

TABLE 1-4: CAN REPORT COUNTS BY CALENDAR YEAR

Calendar Year	Total Reports Received	Child Abuse/Neglect Reports		Reports Assessed		Reports Substantiated		Reports Unfounded		Alternative Response	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
2014	33,803	31,631	93.6%	12,221	38.6%	2,575	21.1%	8,192	67.0%	72	0.6%
2015	34,143	32,276	94.5%	13,309	41.2%	2,223	16.8%	9,467	71.1%	197	1.5%
2016	35,902	33,977	94.6%	13,735	40.4%	2,174	15.8%	9,500	69.2%	355	2.6%
2017	37,660	35,923	95.4%	13,718	38.2%	2,169	15.8%	9,523	69.4%	599	4.4%
2018	38,393	36,480	95.0%	12,808	35.1%	2,048	16.0%	8,754	68.3%	663	5.2%
2019	40,333	37,690	93.4%	15,417	40.9%	2,019	13.1%	10,336	67.0%	1,082	7.0%
2020	35,121	32,564	92.7%	14,981	46.0%	1,903	12.7%	7,792	52.0%	1528	10.2%
2021	36,393	34,213	94.0%	18,101	52.9%	2,080	11.5%	8,793	48.6%	4,089	22.6%
2022	36,756	34,458	93.7%	16,770	48.7%	1,853	11.0%	7,423	44.3%	5,195	31.0%
2023	36,366	33,585	92.4%	14,419	42.9%	1,732	12.0%	7,778	54.0%	4,279	29.7%

TABLE 1-5: CAN REPORT COUNTS BY SERVICE AREA

Calendar Year	Report Status	Central		Eastern		Northern		Southeast		Western		Grand Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
2023	Reports Received	3,335		16,069		4,490		9,353		3,099		36,366	
	Abuse/Neglect Reports	3,222	96.6%	14,032	87.3%	4,317	96.1%	9,061	96.9%	2,953	95.2%	33,585	92.4%
	Reports Assessed	1,585	47.5%	5,725	35.6%	2,143	47.7%	3,401	36.4%	1,565	50.5%	14,419	39.6%
	Reports Substantiated*	194	12.2%	647	11.3%	307	14.3%	378	11.1%	206	13.2%	1,732	12.0%
	Reports Unfounded	830	52.3%	3,192	55.8%	979	45.7%	1,988	58.5%	789	50.4%	7,778	53.9%
	Unable to Locate	35	2.2%	66	1.2%	16	0.7%	21	0.6%	8	0.5%	135	0.1%
	Dependent Child Reports Assessed	40	2.5%	1066	18.6%	65	3.0%	76	2.2%	45	2.9%	1,292	9.0%
	Alternative Response	501	31.6%	1,671	29.2%	651	30.4%	945	27.8%	511	32.7%	4,279	30.9%
	Assessment In Process	0	0%	16	0.3%	127	5.9%	3	0%	9	0.6%	155	29.7%
	Closed No Finding***	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	2	0%

*Substantiated includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

**Closed No Finding includes reports where the alleged perpetrator was under the age of 12 and state law does not allow a finding to be entered.

TABLE 1-6: 2023 REPORTER SOURCE

Report Source	Total Reports Alleging Abuse and Neglect		Total Reports Assessed		Percent of Reports Assessed	Assessed Reports Substantiated	
	Count	%	Count	%		Count	%
Relative/Friend	5,302	15.8%	1,956	13.6%	36.9%	157	8.0%
School	9,219	27.4%	3,756	26.0%	40.7%	199	5.3%
Law Enforcement	6,775	20.2%	3,001	20.8%	44.3%	746	24.9%
Medical	4,572	13.6%	2,524	17.5%	55.2%	275	10.9%
Other	2,714	8.1%	933	6.5%	34.4%	74	7.9%
Social Service Agency	1,632	4.9%	747	5.2%	45.8%	146	19.5%
Anonymous/Unknown	2,199	6.5%	834	5.8%	37.9%	36	3.9%
Child Care Agency	403	1.2%	155	1.1%	38.5%	14	9.0%
Legal	710	2.1%	513	3.6%	72.3%	85	16.6%
Grand Total	33,585	100%	14,419	100%	42.9%	1,732	12.0%

* Substantiated includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

SECTION 2: ABUSE TYPES

TABLE 2-1: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY ABUSE CATEGORY AND SERVICE AREA

Calendar Year	Service Area	Abuse	Neglect	Sexual Abuse/ Sex Trafficking	Unique Substantiated Victims	Percentage of Substantiated Victims
2023	Central	71	190	27	254	8.8%
	Eastern	444	1,061	132	1,443	49.9%
	Northern	129	318	34	421	14.6%
	Southeast	124	349	67	485	16.8%
	Western	84	231	19	289	10.0%
	Grand Total	852	2,149	279	2,892	100.0%

* Substantiated includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

TABLE 2-2: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY ABUSE TYPES AND SERVICE AREA

Calendar Year	Service Area	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Medical Neglect Handicapped Infant	Sexual Abuse	Sex Trafficking
2023	Central	57	9	189	**	0	22	**
	Eastern	364	80	1,052	8	**	129	**
	Northern	98	31	312	6	0	33	**
	Southeast	108	16	346	**	0	66	**
	Western	69	15	231	0	0	19	0
	Grand Total	696	156	2,130	18	**	272	7

* Substantiated includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

**Counts between 1-5 are suppressed due to privacy protection.

SECTION 3: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS

TABLE 3-1: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY GENDER AND SERVICE AREA

Calendar Year	Service Area	Gender						Total
		Female		Male		Unknown		
2023	Central	132	52.0%	122	48.0%	0	0.0%	254
	Eastern	772	53.5%	669	46.4%	2	0.1%	1,443
	Northern	215	51.1%	204	48.5%	2	0.5%	421
	Southeast	266	54.8%	218	44.9%	1	0.2%	485
	Western	159	55.0%	130	45.0%	0	0.0%	289
	Grand Total	1,544	53.4%	1,343	46.4%	5	0.2%	2,892

TABLE 3-2: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY GENDER AND AGE

AGE IN YEARS	2023					
	GENDER			Total	%	Cumulative %
	Female	Male	Unknown			
0	177	199	0	376	13.0%	13.0%
1	98	80	0	178	6.2%	19.2%
2	86	97	0	183	6.3%	25.5%
3	69	83	0	152	5.3%	30.8%
4	79	87	1	167	5.8%	36.6%
5	83	85	0	168	5.8%	42.4%
6	77	88	0	165	5.7%	48.1%
7	80	79	0	159	5.5%	53.6%
8	68	82	0	150	5.2%	58.8%
9	80	69	0	149	5.2%	64.0%
10	79	72	0	151	4.6%	68.6%
11	71	62	0	133	4.4%	73.0%
12	83	42	1	126	4.4%	77.4%
13	91	60	0	151	5.2%	82.6%
14	92	36	0	128	4.4%	87.0%
15	94	39	1	134	4.6%	91.6%
16	64	41	0	105	3.6%	95.2%
17	46	30	0	76	2.6%	97.8%
>17	26	9	0	35	1.2%	99.0%
Unknown	1	3	2	6	0.2%	100.0%
Grand Total	1,544	1,353	5	2,892	100.0%	

TABLE 3-3: 2023 SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY RACE AND AGE GROUP

Race	AGE								Total	%
	0 to 4		5 to 9		10 to 14		15 ≤			
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%		
White	563	19.1%	438	15.1%	386	13.5%	197	6.8%	1,584	54.6%
Black or African American	165	5.2%	118	4.1%	91	3.3%	36	1.2%	410	13.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	71	2.4%	50	1.6%	35	1.4%	21	0.8%	177	6.3%
Asian	13	0.5%	9	.2%	9	0.3%	6	0.2%	37	1.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6	0.2%	0	0.0%	**	**%	0	0%	7-11	0.3%
Multiple Races	116	4.1%	93	3.3%	75	2.6%	34	1.1%	318	11.1%
Other/Unidentified	128	4.6%	83	2.9%	91	3.3%	56	1.9%	358	12.7%
Grand Total	1,062	36.1%	791	27.3%	688-692	24.7%	350	12.0%	2,891 - 2,895	100.0%

**Counts between 1-5 are suppressed due to privacy protection. Due to cell count suppression, a range is included for the category total.

TABLE 3-4: 2023 SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY AND AGE GROUP

Ethnicity	AGE								Total	%
	0 to 4		5 to 9		10 to 14		15 ≤			
Hispanic	225	7.7%	165	5.7%	134	4.9%	70	2.5%	594	20.8%
Non-Hispanic	837	28.4%	626	21.6%	555	19.7%	280	9.5%	2,298	79.2%
Grand Total	1,062	36.1%	791	27.3%	689	24.7%	350	12.0%	2,892	100.0%

TABLE 3-5: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIM RATE BY RACE

Race	Calendar Year 2023		Victim Rate Per 1,000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Victims	
White	412,207	1,584	3.84
Black or African American	34,408	410	11.92
American Indian or Alaska Native	14,322	177	12.36
Asian	15,552	37	2.38
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,014	8	7.89
Multiple Races	25,719	318	12.36
Other/Unidentified	N/A	358	N/A
Grand Total	503,222	2,892	5.75

*** Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual State Residential Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022*, Release date: June 2023.

TABLE 3-6: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIM RATE BY ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	Calendar Year 2023		Victim Rate Per 1,000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Victims	
Hispanic	96,712	594	6.14
Non-Hispanic	406,510	2,298	5.65
Grand Total	503,222	2,892	5.75

TABLE 3-7: SUBSTANTIATED VICTIM RATE BY AGE GROUP

Age	Calendar Year 2023		Victim Rate Per 1,000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Victims	
0	24,347	376	15.44
1	24,145	178	7.37
2	24,720	183	7.40
3	25,044	152	6.07
4	25,581	167	6.53
5	26,163	168	6.42
6	26,904	165	6.13
7	26,959	159	5.89
8	26,905	150	5.58
9	26,551	149	5.61
10	26,269	151	5.75
11	26,438	133	5.03
12	27,107	126	4.65
13	27,776	151	5.43
14	28,429	128	4.50
15	28,205	134	4.75
16	27,660	105	3.79
17	27,474	76	2.77
>17	26,545	35	1.32
Unknown	N/A	6	N/A
Grand Total	503,222	2,892	6.06

*** Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual State Residential Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022*, Release date: June 2023.

SECTION 4: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATORS

TABLE 4-1: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATORS BY GENDER AND SERVICE AREA

Calendar Year	Service Area	Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
2023	Central	96	122	218
	Eastern	374	403	777
	Northern	182	195	377
	Southeast	211	216	427
	Western	130	135	265
	Grand Total	993	1,071	2,064

TABLE 4-2: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATORS RATE BY RACE

Race	Calendar Year 2023		Perpetrator Rate Per 1000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Perpetrators	
White	1,332,163	1,155	0.86
Black or African American	72,797	281	3.86
American Indian and Alaska Native	18,554	125	6.74
Asian	40,821	25	0.61
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,779	6	3.37
Multiple	25,132	102	4.06
Other/Unidentified	N/A	370	N/A
Grand Total	1,491,246	2,064	1.38

TABLE 4-3: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATORS RATE BY ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	Calendar Year 2023		Perpetrator Rate Per 1000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Perpetrators	
Hispanic	150,427	322	2.14
Non-Hispanic	1,340,819	1,742	1.29
Grand Total	1,491,246	2,064	1.38

*** Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual State Residential Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022*, Release date: June 2023.

TABLE 4-4: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATOR RATE BY AGE GROUP

Age Group	Calendar Year 2023		Perpetrator Rate Per 1000
	State of Nebraska Population (Pct.)***	Perpetrators	
18 to 19	54,117	69	1.28
20 to 29	269,599	604	2.24
30 to 39	255,684	863	3.8
40 to 49	257,062	379	1.47
Over 50	654,784	149	0.23
Grand Total	1,491,246	2,064	1.38

TABLE 4-5: SUBSTANTIATED PERPETRATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM

Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim	Calendar Year 2023	
	Count	%
Biological Parent	1,547	75.0%
Unmarried Partner of Parent	1113	5.5%
Unknown	142	6.9%
Stepparent	97	4.7%
Relative	88	4.3%
Sibling	24	1.2%
Adoptive Parent	24	1.2%
Child Day Care Provider	14	0.7%
Foster Parent	14	0.7%
Residential Facility Staff	1	0.0%
Non-Relative	0	0.0%
Grand Total	2,064	100.0%

*** Population Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual State Residential Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022*, Release date: June 2023.

Glossary of Terms

Assessed: This term is used to describe reports of child abuse/neglect or dependent children that are accepted for assessment/investigation by the Department or referred to Law Enforcement for investigation.

Alternative Response: A term used to identify reports with families with less severe reports of child abuse and/or neglect that are accepted for assessment. These reports do not focus on an abuse/neglect investigation, but instead focus on connecting families with supports and services needed to enhance the ability to keep children safe and healthy.

Child Abuse/Neglect: Maltreatment occurs when a child from birth through age 17 is physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed.

Abuse:

- ❖ **Physical:** Information indicates the existence of an injury that is unexplained; not consistent with the explanation given; or is non-accidental. The information may also only indicate a substantial risk of bodily injury.
- ❖ **Emotional:** Information indicates psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child which is documented by a psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating; rejection or exposure to violence by the child's parent/caretaker.
- ❖ **Sexual:** Information indicates any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child is or has been used for the sexual stimulation of a parent, the child, or other person.

Neglect:

- ❖ **Emotional neglect:** Information which indicates that the child is suffering or has suffered severe negative effects due to a parent's failure to provide the opportunities for normal experience that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure and worthy. Lack of such opportunities may impair the child's ability to form healthy relationships with others.
- ❖ **Physical neglect:** Information indicates the failure of the parent to provide for the basic needs, or provide a safe and sanitary living environment for the child.
- ❖ **Medical Neglect of Handicapped Infant:** The withholding of medically indicated treatment (appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions. Exceptions include those situations in which the infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose; the provision of this treatment would merely prolong dying or not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the infant's life-threatening conditions, and the provision of the treatment itself under these conditions would be inhumane.

Dependent Child: No child maltreatment has been identified and information indicates that the parent is or will be unable to care for the child through no fault of the parent due to: parent incapacity or absence including an acute or persistent mental or physical condition which prevents her/him from parenting the child adequately or parent is dying or is dead, is incarcerated, hospitalized or otherwise unavoidably unable to provide care, or the child has extraordinary mental health, emotional, or physical needs which the parent does not have the ability or capacity to meet.

Information and Referral: A Department process to document calls received by the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline that are not reporting child abuse or neglect or dependency. Department staff will provide information and referrals to the caller to assist them with obtaining services or additional information.

In Process of Assessment: The status of a Child Abuse and Neglect Report that is currently being assessed. These reports were not completed at the time the data was selected for this report.

Intake Report: The process of documenting all child related reports including abuse/neglect, dependent child, and information/referral reports. Intake includes the activities associated with receipt of a report via phone call, fax, email, etc., the decision to accept or not accept the report for further assessment, and the referral of individuals or families to services.

Law Enforcement in Process: Reports that have been referred to Law Enforcement and are in process of being investigated by a Law Enforcement Agency or that Law Enforcement has declined to assess. Reports of child abuse and neglect that are sent directly to law enforcement for investigation because the report does not include abuse or neglect allegations of a family member or someone acting in a familial role. These reports are investigated by law enforcement. The Department will assist if requested.

Report Source: The role of the person who made the report to the Abuse/Neglect Hotline.

Screened Out: This term is used to describe reports of child abuse and neglect or Dependent Child that are not accepted for further assessment by the Department. These reports do not meet the criteria established by the Department that would cause the Department to intervene.

Substantiated: The term substantiated means that a determination was made that the incident of maltreatment did occur and met the level of abuse/neglect as defined in statute. Substantiated means either the incident was substantiated by the Department or a court. Substantiated also includes incidents where the county attorney has filed and the disposition is pending a court decision.

Substantiated Perpetrator: The person who was found to have committed abuse or neglect of a child.

Substantiated Victim: The person who was found to have been a victim of abuse or neglect of a child.

Unable to Locate: Subjects of the maltreatment report have not been located after a good-faith effort by the Department to locate.

Unfounded: The term unfounded means that a determination was made that the incident of maltreatment did not occur or rise to the level of abuse/neglect as defined in statute.