



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN NORTH DAKOTA IS ON THE RISE

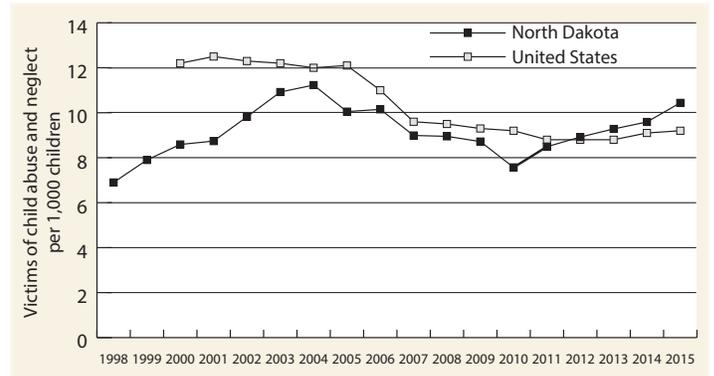
Negative childhood experiences can have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity¹. Much of the research in this area is referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death¹. The original ACE study, a collaboration between the CDC and Kaiser Permanente, found there were significant associations between childhood maltreatment and exposure to violence, with adult health problems¹.

In 2015, 1,760 North Dakota children were victims of maltreatment (a term that encompasses both abuse and neglect) (Table 1)². In each case, an investigation by social workers with child protection services concluded that an allegation of abuse or neglect was supported by state law. Specifically, for every 1,000 children ages 0 through 17 in North Dakota, 10.4 were abused or neglected². As not all cases of abuse and neglect may be reported to the proper authorities, it is important to note that this is a conservative number. Also, cases of child maltreatment occurring on tribal lands are processed through separate tribal systems and are not included in numbers reported by the Department of Human Services.

The rate of child maltreatment in North Dakota rose consistently in the latter part of the 1990s, from 6.9 per 1,000 in 1998 to a high of 11.2 per 1,000 in 2004. The rate then decreased, dropping steadily to 7.6 per 1,000 in 2010. The trend has now reversed, with the rate increasing steadily to 10.4 in 2015, representing a 38 percent increase in the rate of child victims since 2010² (Figure 1).

Historically, the rate of child maltreatment in North Dakota has trended below the national average. However in 2012, the rate of child maltreatment in North Dakota rose above the national average and the gap continues to widen^{2,3} (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN) IN NORTH DAKOTA* & U.S: 1998-2015^{2,3}



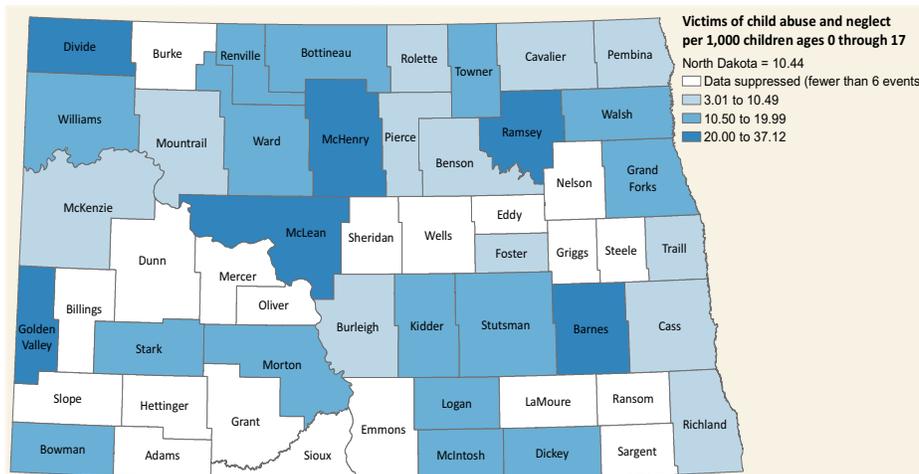
In 2015, about three-fourths of child victims in North Dakota were neglected (77%), 32 percent were psychologically abused, 12 percent were physically abused, and 4 percent were sexually abused³. While the number of victims has increased for each type of maltreatment since 2010, there was little change in the rates of physical and psychological abuse. However, the rate of child sexual abuse grew 22 percent and child neglect grew nearly 50 percent since 2010³.

Rates of child maltreatment vary widely by county in North Dakota. In 20 counties, the 2015 data were suppressed by the North Dakota Department of Human Services because the event number was fewer than six². In six counties, the rate of child maltreatment exceeded 20 per 1,000 children in 2015, at least twice the national average of 9.2 per 1,000^{2,3} (Figure 2 and Table 1).

These rates have a variety of undesirable implications for the future of North Dakota's children such as substance abuse, obesity and eating disorders, suicide, and high-risk sexual behavior⁴. Effects can be seen long after the maltreatment occurred, leading to a variety of long-lasting impacts well into adulthood.

Research shows these negative outcomes can be combated with education, increased awareness, and community engagement. Moreover, protective factors have been identified that strengthen prevention efforts and treatment outcomes, including parental resilience, social connections, stable family relationships, and parental employment⁵. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential to prevent child abuse and neglect and to assure all children reach their full potential. More information about child abuse prevention measures is available at <http://www.pcand.org>.

FIGURE 2. VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN) IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY*: 2015²



SOURCES:¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/>.² Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. 2016. Safety and Risky Behaviors. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#ND/2/35/36>.³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Children's Bureau. 2017. *Child Maltreatment*. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2IEA24G>.⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. 2017. Retrieved from <https://childwelfare.gov/topics/can/>.⁵ Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars. 2006. Briefing Report for the New Mexico Family Impact Seminar. *Saving Lives, Saving Dollars: Mitigating the Impact of Child Maltreatment*. Retrieved from <http://www.familyimpactseminars.org>. NOTE: *Child maltreatment cases occurring on tribal lands are processed through separate tribal systems and are not included in these numbers.

TABLE 1. VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN NORTH DAKOTA BY COUNTY: 2011-2015²

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number	Rate*								
North Dakota**	1,295	8.49	1,402	8.92	1,517	9.28	1,616	9.59	1,760	10.44
Adams	<6	--	<6	--	9	20.32	10	21.79	<6	--
Barnes	<6	--	30	13.32	34	14.78	30	13.19	51	22.42
Benson **	<6	--	<6	--	16	6.83	18	7.71	20	8.57
Billings	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Bottineau	14	10.99	9	6.93	<6	--	18	12.87	26	18.58
Bowman	<6	--	10	13.46	9	11.55	18	22.87	12	15.25
Burke	<6	--	<6	--	9	16.79	<6	--	<6	--
Burleigh	270	14.40	217	11.20	149	7.42	151	7.35	212	10.32
Cass	222	6.68	209	6.08	192	5.35	169	4.58	179	4.85
Cavalier	8	10.13	9	11.54	10	13.05	<6	--	7	9.21
Dickey	6	4.96	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	15	12.91
Divide	8	21.74	15	36.50	42	90.13	6	11.81	14	27.56
Dunn **	<6	--	11	12.64	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Eddy **	8	16.46	<6	--	<6	--	10	18.98	<6	--
Emmons	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Foster	<6	--	<6	--	6	8.28	9	12.53	7	9.75
Golden Valley	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	16	37.12
Grand Forks	176	13.20	202	14.82	204	14.48	257	17.97	193	13.50
Grant	<6	--	<6	--	6	13.64	14	32.04	<6	--
Griggs	<6	--	<6	--	9	21.79	<6	--	<6	--
Hettinger	<6	--	<6	--	8	13.49	<6	--	<6	--
Kidder	<6	--	<6	--	7	13.67	<6	--	6	11.63
LaMoure	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Logan	<6	--	<6	--	11	27.36	8	19.28	6	14.46
McHenry	15	12.57	8	6.21	25	18.53	23	16.52	35	25.14
McIntosh	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	8	15.01
McKenzie **	14	7.47	21	9.57	22	8.44	29	8.98	23	7.12
McLean **	28	15.55	18	9.15	42	20.79	60	28.49	64	30.39
Mercer **	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Morton	63	9.64	82	12.48	71	10.51	96	13.82	117	16.84
Mountrail **	11	5.75	19	8.97	10	4.35	6	2.45	22	8.99
Nelson	<6	--	<6	--	9	15.90	<6	--	<6	--
Oliver	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Pembina	13	8.30	12	7.84	28	18.87	18	12.20	13	8.81
Pierce	<6	--	13	13.42	11	11.18	15	15.40	7	7.19
Ramsey	41	16.19	69	27.11	85	33.29	130	50.27	83	32.10
Ransom	6	4.76	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Renville	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	16	27.63	10	17.27
Richland	16	4.52	29	8.43	21	6.04	14	3.98	11	3.12
Rolette **	32	6.80	17	3.56	22	4.49	35	7.09	15	3.04
Sargent	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Sheridan	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Sioux **	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Slope	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Stark	54	9.89	79	13.07	77	11.77	84	11.40	90	12.21
Steele	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--
Stutsman	24	5.63	31	7.23	50	11.59	56	13.01	83	19.28
Towner	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	<6	--	10	19.96
Traill	9	5.03	8	4.42	9	4.98	19	10.55	13	7.22
Walsh	26	10.63	35	14.41	31	12.26	35	14.10	43	17.32
Ward **	157	10.39	127	8.36	189	12.01	169	10.50	254	15.78
Wells	7	8.91	6	7.43	<6	--	7	8.71	<6	--
Williams	60	10.45	104	16.23	118	16.01	105	12.83	134	16.38

NOTES: *The rate is equal to the number of confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect requiring services (as determined by the CPS social workers with the North Dakota Department of Human Services) per 1,000 youth ages 0 through 17. <6 indicates that data are not reported for geographies where the number of suspected victims is less than six. **Child maltreatment cases occurring on tribal lands are processed through separate tribal systems and are not included in these numbers. -- Indicates an unknown rate because the event number is suppressed.