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Number 16

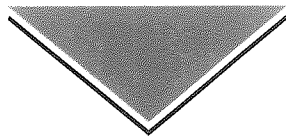
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**Child abuse  
and neglect  
Australia  
1994-95**

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**Graham Angus  
and  
Greg Hall**

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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

CHILD WELFARE SERIES

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**Graham Angus  
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Greg Hall**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

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## Preface

This report was prepared by Graham Angus and Greg Hall of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It is the Institute's fifth report on child abuse and neglect and the sixteenth report in the Child Welfare Series.

Tables in this publication showing statistics for the whole of Australia only are also available for individual States and Territories on request.

Figures shown in tables may not add to totals due to rounding.

### Symbols used

The following symbols are used in the tables of this report:

- nil or rounded to zero
- . . not applicable
- n.a. not available

## Summary

This report presents statistics on cases of child abuse and neglect reported to State and Territory welfare departments for the year 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995. It does not provide details about all child abuse and neglect in Australia as many occurrences of child abuse and neglect are unreported and the coverage of data collections varies by State and Territory. While this report contains considerable detail on the number and nature of reported child abuse and neglect cases in Australia, it does not include information about the level of seriousness of cases or the type and extent of support services provided.

- State and Territory welfare departments substantiated 30,615 cases of child abuse and neglect in 1994–95. These accounted for 45% of finalised cases. A further 2,796 cases (4%) were not substantiated but the child was assessed as being at risk. Together these cases represent an increase of 7% over 1993–94.
- There were 31,464 cases in which no abuse or neglect was found and a further 3,043 cases where no action was possible.
- The 30,615 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect involved 26,544 children.
- Of the 30,615 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect 29% were physical abuse, 28% emotional abuse, 16% sexual abuse and 26% neglect.
- There were more boys than girls in substantiated cases of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, while girls were represented in three-quarters (76%) of sexual abuse cases.
- The highest numbers of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect were those for children aged 13 and 14 years (2,264 and 2,452 respectively).
- The highest number of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect were reported by friends and neighbours (16% of finalised cases where the source of report was known), school personnel (15%), parents/guardians (13%) and police (12%).
- Reports of abuse and neglect from police had the highest rates of substantiation (61%), followed by cases reported by the subject child (58%), hospital and health centre staff (55%), and social workers (55%). Reports from anonymous persons (26%), siblings (29%) and friends and neighbours (30%) had the lowest rates of substantiation.
- For the three States and two Territories for which data were provided, more cases involved children from female single parent families (39%) than families with two natural parents (30%) or other two-parent families (such as families with a step-parent) (21%). Of neglect cases, 47% involved children from female single parent families compared with 26% from families with two natural parents.
- Ten per cent of children aged 0–16 years in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a much higher proportion than they represent of the Australian population aged 0–16 (3%).
- Rates of substantiated abuse and neglect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (19.1 per 1,000 children 0–16 years) were much higher than for other children (5.6 per 1,000). The corresponding rates for neglect cases were 7.7 and 1.3 respectively.
- In New South Wales, the primary actual abuse was bruising in 22% of physical abuse cases, the parent's alcohol or drug abuse causing emotional harm to the child in 22% of emotional abuse cases, sexual fondling in 42% of sexual abuse cases and the child being left without adequate supervision in 45% of neglect cases.

# 1 Introduction

This publication presents statistics on cases of child abuse and neglect reported to State and Territory departments and authorities responsible for child welfare for the year 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995 (1994-95).

The data provided by welfare departments were sought according to detailed definitions, procedures and counting rules agreed to by the States, Territories and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Definitions used in the data collection may be found in Section 7, 'Explanation of terms'. Data for years prior to 1990-91 (shown in Tables 28 to 31) were published by the Welstat Policy Steering Committee.

The tables and figures in this report are based on data provided, so their accuracy is dependent on factors such as the scope and completeness of data collection, legislation concerning mandatory reporting, reporting procedures, policy guidelines and casework practices of the particular State or Territory. These factors may also affect the comparability of data across States and Territories. These matters are outlined in Section 3, 'Child abuse and neglect in Australia'.

Prior to 1994-95 the collections included cases reported in the financial year and where the investigation was finalised by the following 31 August (except in South Australia where the cut-off date was generally around mid-August). For 1994-95 the cut-off date was extended to 30 September 1995 although South Australian data comprise cases finalised by 16 August 1995. The later cut-off date for 1994-95 has contributed to a small reduction in the proportion of cases not finalised compared with the previous year.

## 2 Scope and coverage

This collection includes all reports of child abuse and neglect made to authorised departments and authorities during the year ended 30 June 1995 and finalised by 30 September 1995. There are however some gaps in coverage, as outlined below.

In Queensland, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care investigates abuse and neglect inflicted by a person living within the child's home, while the police are responsible for investigating abuse and neglect by someone living outside the child's home. The Department also investigates cases involving abuse by a person living outside the child's home in cases where the parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child, and in cases where it is not known if the person believed responsible lives in the child's home. Data on cases investigated by the police are currently not available and are therefore not included in this report. During 1993-94, Queensland introduced a response known as 'Protective advice', where the Department provides advice regarding child protection matters that pose a risk of harm to children but do not warrant a full investigation. In 1994-95, there were 1,515 responses of protective advice in relation to reports of child abuse and neglect. These are excluded from cases shown in this publication.

In Tasmania, under the *Child Protection Act 1974*, the Department of Community and Health Services is responsible for the protection of children who have suffered, or who are at risk of suffering, abuse. Cases reported under this Act are recorded on the Child Protection database and represent all reported abuse cases, but only a minority of neglect cases. These data are included in this report. The Department is also responsible for the investigation of cases of neglect, notified under the terms of the *Child Welfare Act 1960*. These cases are recorded on the Child Welfare Information System and the data are not available for 1994-95. Until the present time, each Act was administered by a separate team within the Department of Community and Health Services. Tasmania is working towards the establishment of 'Intake and Assessment' teams that will administer both Acts, thereby eliminating the 'artificial divide' between abuse and neglect responses that has developed over recent years.

Similar arrangements to those in Queensland operate in the Northern Territory where Territory Health Services investigates cases of abuse and neglect within the family and the immediate family circle (including Aboriginal kinship) and cases involving abuse by persons outside the immediate family circle where it appears that the child's caregivers are unable or unwilling to protect the child. Other cases are generally investigated by the police, and are not included in this report.

## 3 Child abuse and neglect in Australia

### General

Many occurrences of child abuse and neglect are unreported. Those that are reported may come to the attention of someone in authority such as a school teacher, a police officer, a doctor, a health department official, a health worker or a welfare worker. In most States and Territories certain professionals are required by legislation to report suspected occurrences of child abuse and neglect to the relevant welfare department.

A large proportion of allegations are made by relatives (including parents), friends and neighbours while some are made by the subject child. These allegations may be made to one of the above professional groups, to the State or Territory welfare department or to a specific independent authority.

An allegation becomes the basis of a case when the department or authority decides that an investigation is warranted, and does not already have an ongoing case involving the same matter.

Statistics are obtained from the various databases in the State and Territory welfare departments and sent to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for compilation.

### Assessment outcomes

After a case has been investigated, the departmental officer responsible for the case will determine an assessment outcome (substantiated, etc.). The investigation is then considered finalised. However, the welfare department may continue to be involved in providing support and assistance to the child and family. In 1994-95 the outcome was designated as 'Substantiated', 'No abuse or neglect' or 'No action possible' in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These categories were also used in Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory but with the addition of a 'Child at risk' category (see 'Child at risk', page 6). In Tasmania, the outcome was designated as 'Substantiated', 'Child at risk' or 'No abuse or neglect'; cases where no action was possible were included with 'No abuse or neglect'.

Substantiated cases are classified as either 'Physical abuse', 'Emotional abuse', 'Sexual abuse' or 'Neglect'. If more than one type has been substantiated, cases are classified to the type considered most severe, most obvious or presenting the greatest risk to the child in the short term.

The high number of unfinalised cases in New South Wales was due mainly to increasing workloads within the child protection system, resulting in some cases not being finalised and others finalised but not recorded as such on the computer system.

### Mandatory reporting

All States and Territories except Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have legislation requiring compulsory reporting of child abuse. Under the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975* Family Court staff are also required to report all suspected cases of child abuse.

### New South Wales

Since 1977 medical practitioners have been required by law to report physical and sexual abuse. Under the *Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987* teachers are required to report suspected cases of child sexual abuse. This includes principals, deputy principals, teachers, school social workers and school counsellors. Teachers are also required by Department of School Education policy to notify suspected physical and emotional abuse and neglect. The

police service and Department of Health workers are also required, under their own departmental guidelines, to report abuse.

## **Victoria**

In 1993 the Victorian Government proposed legislative changes to the *Children and Young Persons Act 1989* which would mandate specific professional groups to notify suspected cases of child physical and sexual abuse. The professional groups targeted through legislation include medical practitioners, psychiatrists, nurses, police, primary and post-primary teachers, principals, registered psychologists, social workers, youth and welfare workers, and other workers in related community and welfare services fields. The government adopted a phased implementation of mandatory reporting legislation to enable adequate professional education of these groups on issues of mandatory reporting and child abuse.

Doctors, nurses and police were mandated on 4 November 1993 to report child physical and sexual abuse. Primary and secondary school teachers and principals were mandated on 18 July 1994. The introduction of mandatory reporting resulted in a significant increase in notifications of child abuse and neglect in Victoria.<sup>1</sup>

## **Queensland**

Under the *Health Act Amendment Act 1980*, doctors are required by law to notify the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care of all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Queensland Department of Education guidelines state that teachers are required to advise their principal of suspected cases of child abuse, but there is no legislation or policy that requires reporting to child protection authorities.

## **Western Australia**

In Western Australia, referrals about possible harm to children are facilitated by a series of reciprocal protocols that have been negotiated with key government and non-government agencies, rather than by mandatory reporting. Community awareness programs and education of professional groups also contribute to identification of possible maltreatment, and action to prevent further harm from occurring.

## **South Australia**

Under the *Children's Protection Act 1993*, the following persons are required to notify the Department for Family and Community Services when they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child is being abused or neglected: medical practitioners, nurses, dentists, psychologists, police, probation officers, social workers, teachers, family day care providers, and an employee of, or volunteer in a government department, agency, or a local government or non-government agency that provides health, welfare, education, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children. Training for mandated notifiers has been in place since 1989.

## **Tasmania**

In Tasmania it is mandatory for the following professionals to report suspected cases of child abuse to the Child Protection Board: medical practitioners, registered nurses, probation officers, child welfare officers, school principals, kindergarten teachers, welfare officers appointed under the *Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968*, guidance officers and psychologists.

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<sup>1</sup> Notifications from doctors, nurses and police increased in 1993-94 by 65% on the previous year, and a further 6% in 1994-95. Notifications from teachers and principals increased by 41% and 64% respectively over these periods, while notifications from non-mandated groups (including family and non-mandated professional groups) increased by 30% and 18% respectively.

## **Australian Capital Territory**

There is currently no mandatory reporting of child abuse in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Although the *Children's Services Act 1986* contains a provision that certain specified professionals (including medical practitioners, dentists, registered nurses, police officers and others) be required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse, this provision did not take effect when the Act came into operation. The ACT Community Law Reform Committee, which published its findings in November 1993, was asked by the ACT Government to consider enacting this provision. Consequently, in 1995 the ACT Government announced its intention to introduce mandatory reporting from 1 June 1997, initially following a graduated approach involving the training of professionals in one region, allowing the assessment of the impact on services to be made before full implementation.

## **Northern Territory**

It is mandatory for any person who believes that a child is being, or has been, abused or neglected to make a report either to a Family and Community Services office of Territory Health Services or to the police, who will then notify a Family and Community Services office.

## **Child at risk**

There is some variation between States and Territories in the classification of cases to the 'Child at risk' category.

In New South Wales, policy guidelines require that in unsubstantiated cases, children who are assessed as being at risk of abuse or neglect are to be classified as 'No abuse or neglect found'.

Victoria ceased assigning children to the 'Child at risk' category in 1988-89.

In South Australia, the use of the 'Child at risk' category was discontinued during 1989. Since then such cases have been classified as 'Outcome uncertain' and included with 'No abuse or neglect found' in these statistics.

Since 1993-94, the Northern Territory no longer classifies cases as 'Child at risk'. Cases formerly shown in this category are now allocated to either 'Substantiated' or 'No abuse or neglect found'.

Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory use the category 'Child at risk' where no abuse or neglect can be substantiated but there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the possibility of prior or future abuse or neglect and it is considered that continued departmental involvement is warranted.

## **Reporting procedures**

### **New South Wales**

Under the *Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987*, the Department of Community Services has responsibility for child protection services. Their role in following up allegations of child abuse and neglect includes assessment, investigation, counselling, placement of children and conducting research.

### **Victoria**

The Victorian Police ceased their involvement in receiving notifications of child abuse and neglect in 1992 following amendments to the *Children and Young Persons Act 1989*. The Department of Human Services has statutory responsibility to protect all children and young people under the age of 17 years from child abuse and neglect. Investigations and statutory



intervention are considered within case planning to ensure the safety of children and young people.

Data for Victoria in this publication are based on notifications received by the Department of Human Services. All notifications are recorded at intake, irrespective of a decision to take further action.

In Victoria a more restricted interpretation of 'investigation' is used than in the other States and Territories. An investigation by the Victorian Department of Human Services involves a face-to-face interview. If data for Victoria were to include reports involving other kinds of investigation (such as telephone interviews), their numbers would be higher than shown.

## **Queensland**

In Queensland, child protection services are coordinated by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care under the *Children's Services Act 1965*. All notifications, including those to the police, are provided to the Division of Protective Services and Juvenile Justice of the Department—see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage'.

## **Western Australia**

Family and Children's Services (FCS) functions under the *Child Welfare Act 1947*. Through its district offices, the department investigates allegations of maltreatment, following referrals from members of the community or from government and non-government agencies. Referrals from these agencies are facilitated by negotiated protocols. The statistics in this report count only maltreatment allegations investigated by Family and Children's Services. Cases where investigation was not required but services may have been provided by FCS or these other agencies are excluded.

Western Australian data show a decrease in the number of allegations and investigations consistent with new strategies which were being developed to distinguish between child maltreatment and concerns about children and their families. When these 'New Directions' are fully implemented in 1996 the data profile will change significantly as the evaluation of the pilot suggests that between 75% and 80% of referrals will be classified as child concern reports rather than allegations of maltreatment.

## **South Australia**

The Department for Family and Community Services (FACS) is the statutory body responsible for receiving notifications and investigating allegations of child abuse or neglect in South Australia. Its mandate is derived from the *Children's Protection Act 1993*. In cases of alleged sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and deliberate neglect, the police may also be involved in joint investigations with FACS.

## **Tasmania**

The Child Protection Board of Tasmania is an autonomous statutory body, which is empowered by the *Child Protection Act 1974* and its amendments to make arrangements for the care and protection of children who have suffered or are at risk of suffering abuse.

If an allegation is made that suggests maltreatment or risk of maltreatment to a particular child, that allegation will be taken as a notification and investigated.

Investigation and case management are carried out by officers of the Department of Community and Health Services (DCHS) who are authorised officers of the Child Protection Board. DCHS officers are also responsible for the investigation and case management of neglect cases, which are notified under the terms of the *Child Welfare Act 1960*. These cases are not included in this collection (see note regarding Tasmania under 'Scope and coverage', page 3).

## **Australian Capital Territory**

The statutory framework for the provision of child protection services in the Australian Capital Territory is contained in the *Children's Services Act 1986*. The Act provides for voluntary notification of children who are alleged to be at risk of abuse or neglect. Voluntary notifications are received by Family Services Branch of the Children's, Youth and Family Services Bureau, the police, and from time to time by the Community Advocate.

Each notification is considered by staff of Family Services and, where appropriate, notifications are investigated according to their assessed priority. Statistical information on notifications of child abuse and neglect is entered on a client information system within Family Services.

As noted previously, mandatory reporting is expected to be introduced from 1 June 1997.

## **Northern Territory**

Under the *Community Welfare Act 1983*, the protection of children is within the responsibilities of the Minister for Health and Community Services. The police are required to inform Territory Health Services (THS) of notifications which are made to them. Investigations of alleged abuse and neglect are carried out by authorised THS staff. In cases of alleged sexual abuse and serious physical abuse the police are also involved in the investigation. A protocol between Territory Health Services and the Northern Territory Police provides guidelines and procedures for a coordinated response to child maltreatment in the Northern Territory.

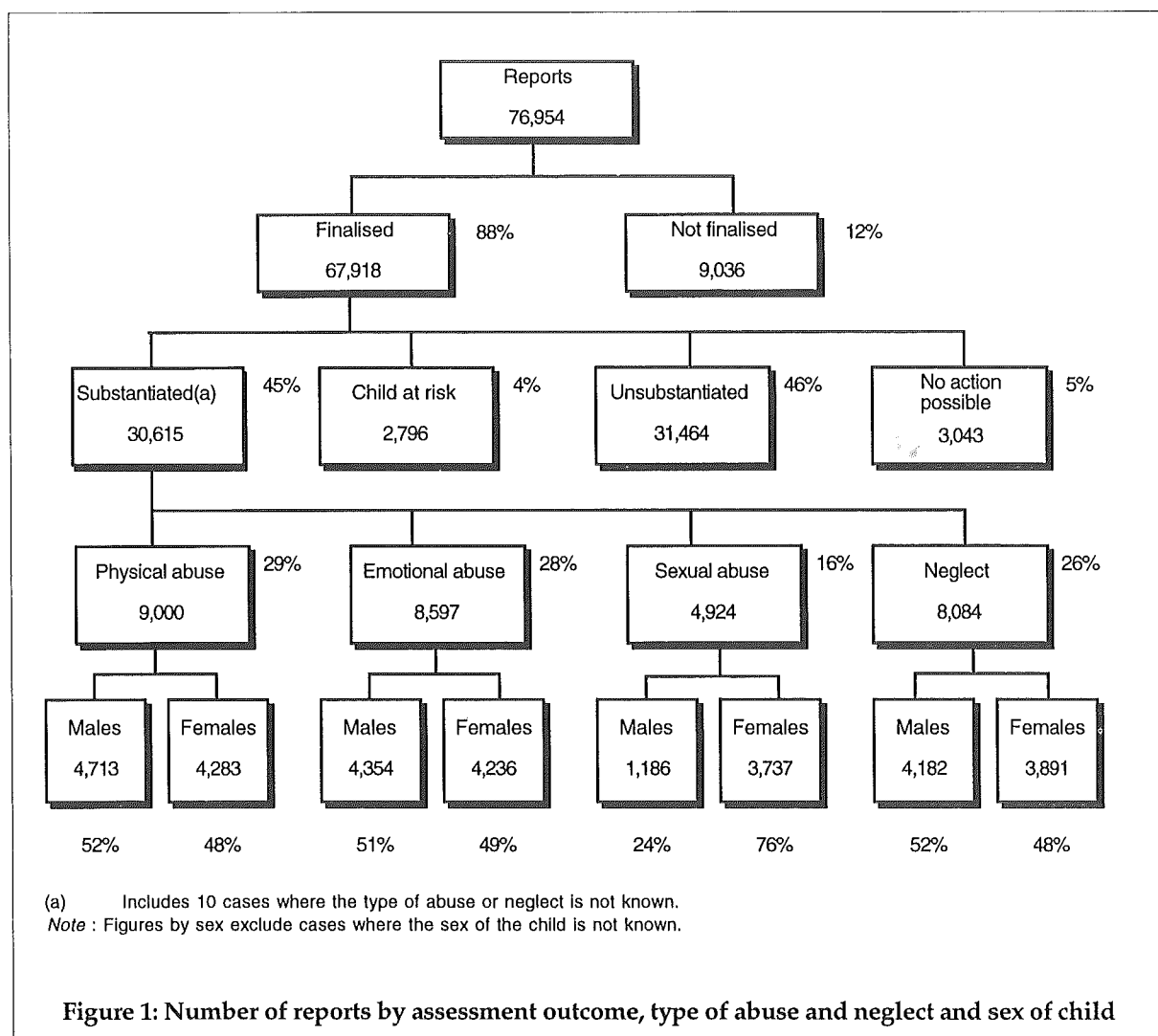
## 4 Child abuse and neglect 1994-95

During 1994-95, there were 76,954 cases of child abuse and neglect reported to State and Territory welfare departments, an increase of 3% over 1993-94. The assessments of 67,918 of these cases were finalised by 30 September 1995, leaving 9,036 cases not finalised by this date. Of cases not finalised, 72% were from New South Wales (6,488 cases) and a further 13% were from Queensland (1,192 cases). The 222 cases not finalised in the Australian Capital Territory represented a higher proportion (20%) of Australian Capital Territory total cases than the New South Wales cases not finalised represented of that State's total cases (19%) (Table 1).

**Table 1: Cases: assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1994-95**

Assessment outcome	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Finalised	26,960	15,503	11,284	4,778	6,408	1,348	864	773	67,918
Not finalised	6,488	115	1,192	158	546	315	222	—	9,036
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>33,448</b>	<b>15,618</b>	<b>12,476</b>	<b>4,936</b>	<b>6,954</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>76,954</b>

(a) The definition of 'case' in Victoria is more restricted than that outlined in Section 7, 'Explanation of terms' (see 'Reporting procedures—Victoria' on pages 6 and 7).



**Figure 1: Number of reports by assessment outcome, type of abuse and neglect and sex of child**

All States and Territories except Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory experienced a rise in the number of reported cases from 1993–94 to 1994–95, with these rises ranging from less than 1% in the Northern Territory to 17% in Queensland. The large rise in Queensland can be partly attributed to the introduction of new arrangements for the management of child protection cases in 1993–94 and heightened community awareness of child abuse and neglect issues.

## Change over time

The number of cases reported increased from 42,468 in 1988–89 to 76,954 in 1994–95, an increase of more than 80% over the six-year period (Table 28). Cases assessed as 'Substantiated' and 'Child at risk' increased from 21,447 to 33,411 over this period—an increase of 56% (Table 30).

The number of children aged 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children increased from 4.1 to 6.1 between 1990–91 and 1994–95. Increases occurred in all States and Territories except Queensland and Tasmania. The marked increase in Victoria, where the rate more than trebled from 2.1 to 6.7 between 1990–91 and 1994–95 was due in part to the change in the basis of recording 'Substantiated cases' during 1992–93 (see Table 32 and footnote).

## Assessment outcomes

Of the 67,918 cases of child abuse and neglect finalised during the year, 30,615 cases were substantiated (45% of finalised cases). A further 2,796 cases (4%) were not substantiated but the child was assessed as being at risk. There were 31,464 cases (46%) in which no abuse or neglect was found, and a further 3,043 cases (4%) where no action was possible (Figure 1; Table 2).

The 30,615 cases of child abuse and neglect substantiated during 1994–95 involved 26,544 children. The number of children in substantiated cases of abuse or neglect increased by 7% from the previous year (Table 2).

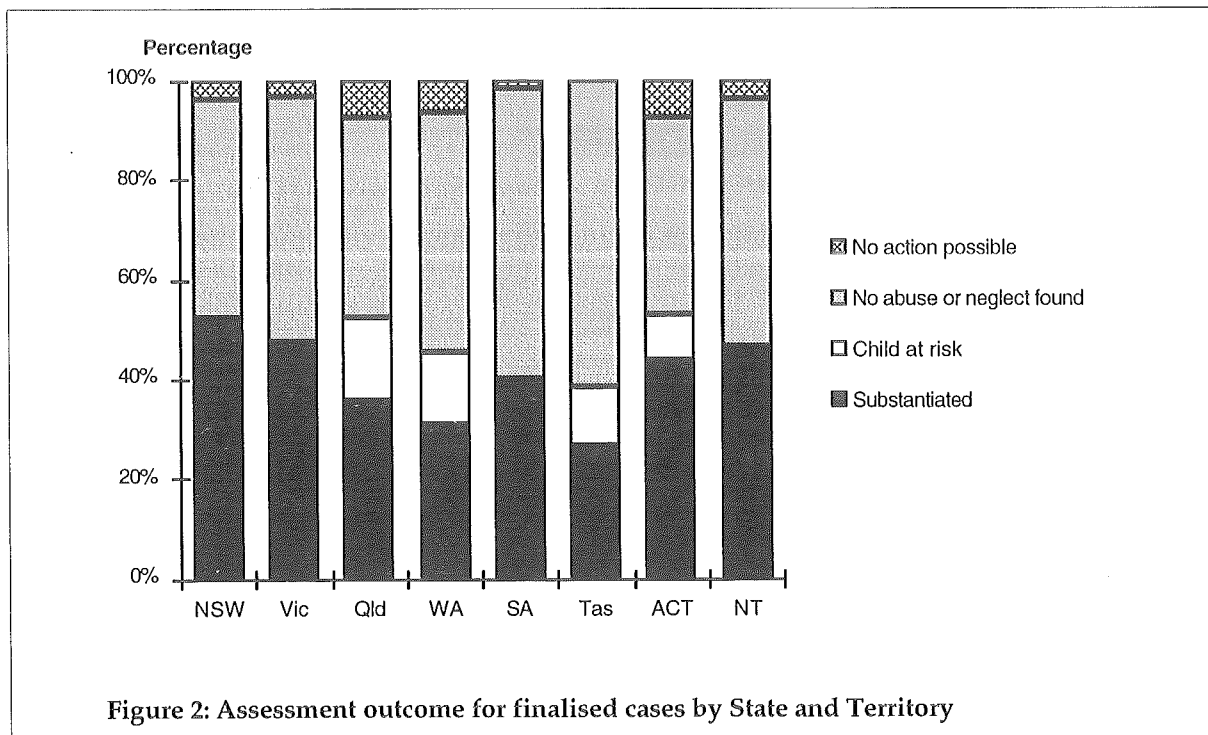
Table 2: Number of cases and children: counting units by assessment outcome, 1994–95

Counting units	Finalised				Total finalised	Not finalised	Total
	Abuse or neglect substantiated	Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>	No abuse or neglect found	No action possible			
Cases	30,615	2,796	31,464	3,043	67,918	9,036	76,954
Children	26,544	2,152	25,277	2,510	56,483	7,110	63,597

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

The proportions of cases substantiated varied considerably between States and Territories. New South Wales and Victoria had the highest proportions of substantiated cases (53% and 47% of finalised cases respectively), while Tasmania and Western Australia had the lowest proportions of substantiation (27% and 31% of finalised cases respectively) (Figure 2; Table 8).

Tasmania and South Australia had the largest proportions of cases where no abuse or neglect was found (62% and 58% of finalised cases respectively), with the Australian Capital Territory (39%) and Queensland (40%) having the smallest proportions (Table 8).



## Types of abuse and neglect substantiated

Child abuse or neglect is substantiated on the basis of information gathered during an investigation, including contact with the subject child and family. The matter is considered substantiated if, in the professional opinion of the officers concerned, there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, is being or is likely to be abused or neglected. The level of information or evidence required for substantiation is less than that required for criminal prosecution. The fact that a case is substantiated does not necessarily imply that court action will follow. Only a minority of cases result in court action.

Of substantiated cases, 29% were cases of physical abuse, 28% were cases of emotional abuse, 16% of sexual abuse, and 26% of neglect (Figure 1; Table 9).

There are major variations between States and Territories in the proportions of each type of abuse and neglect, reflecting at least in part the different policies and practices in operation and the scope and coverage of the various data collections.

Physical abuse cases made up a particularly high proportion of substantiated cases in Tasmania (56%) and the Australian Capital Territory (43%). In contrast, physical abuse accounted for only 24% of substantiated cases in New South Wales, and 29% in Victoria.

The highest proportions of cases of emotional abuse were in New South Wales and Victoria, emotional abuse accounting for 34% of substantiated cases in both States. Emotional abuse constituted a relatively small proportion of substantiated cases in Tasmania (4%), the Northern Territory (5%) and Western Australia (7%).

Sexual abuse accounted for a high proportion of substantiated cases in Tasmania (29%), Western Australia (23%) and New South Wales (21%), with Queensland (6%) and the Australian Capital Territory (6%) having the lowest proportions. The low proportion of sexual abuse cases in Queensland reflects the fact that cases investigated by the police are not included in this data collection. These are cases where the person believed responsible for the abuse lives outside the child's home, many of which are sexual abuse cases.

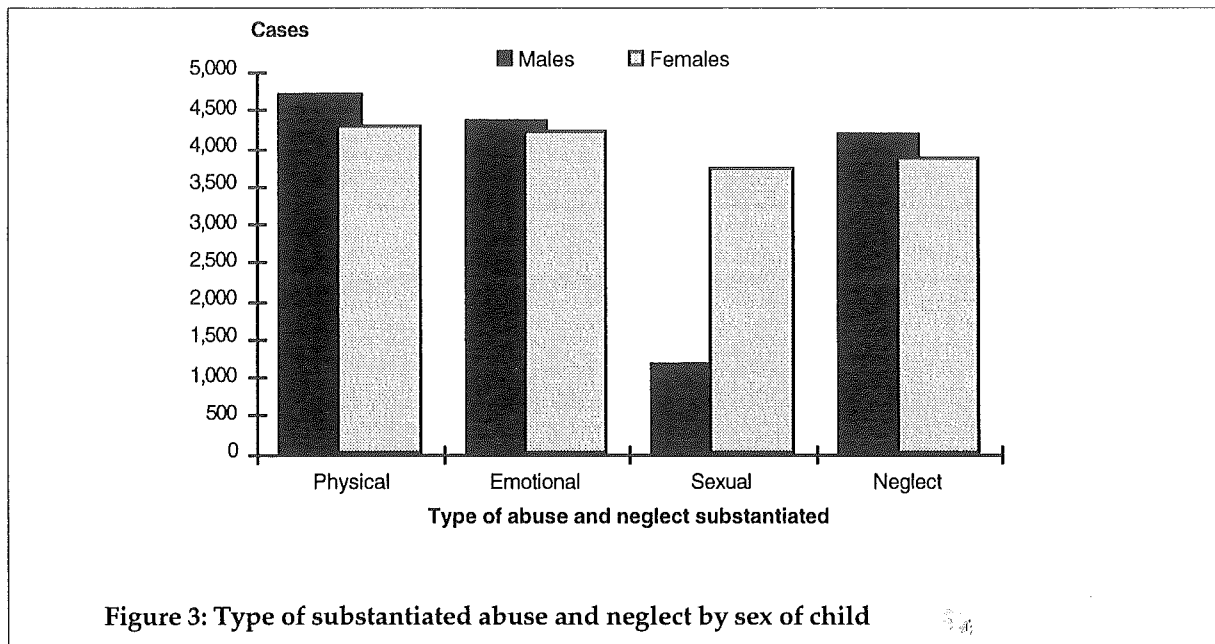
Cases of neglect represent a much larger proportion of cases in the Northern Territory (44%), Queensland (40%) and Western Australia (34%) than in other States and Territories. These three States and Territories have the highest proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who are the subjects of a large proportion of neglect cases (see page 16).

Tasmania, with 11%, had the lowest proportion of neglect cases (Table 9), reflecting that in Tasmania, data on the majority of neglect cases are not included in these statistics (see note regarding Tasmania under 'Scope and coverage', page 3).

### Patterns of abuse and neglect by sex, age and type

The highest numbers of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect were those for children aged 13 and 14 years (2,264 and 2,452 respectively) (Table 10). Rates of substantiated abuse and neglect for children aged 13 and 14 years were 7.6 and 8.3 children per 1,000 respectively (Table 22).

More boys than girls were the subjects of reports of abuse and neglect at all ages below 10 years except 3 and 6 years, while girls were in the majority at all ages from 11 years onwards. There were more boys than girls in substantiated cases of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, while females were in the majority (76%) in sexual abuse cases (Figure 3; Table 10).



Among substantiated cases of physical abuse, there were more boys than girls at each age for pre-teenage children. However, more teenage girls than teenage boys were the subjects of substantiated cases of physical abuse, with the highest number of cases involving girls aged 13 and 14 years (Figure 4; Table 10).

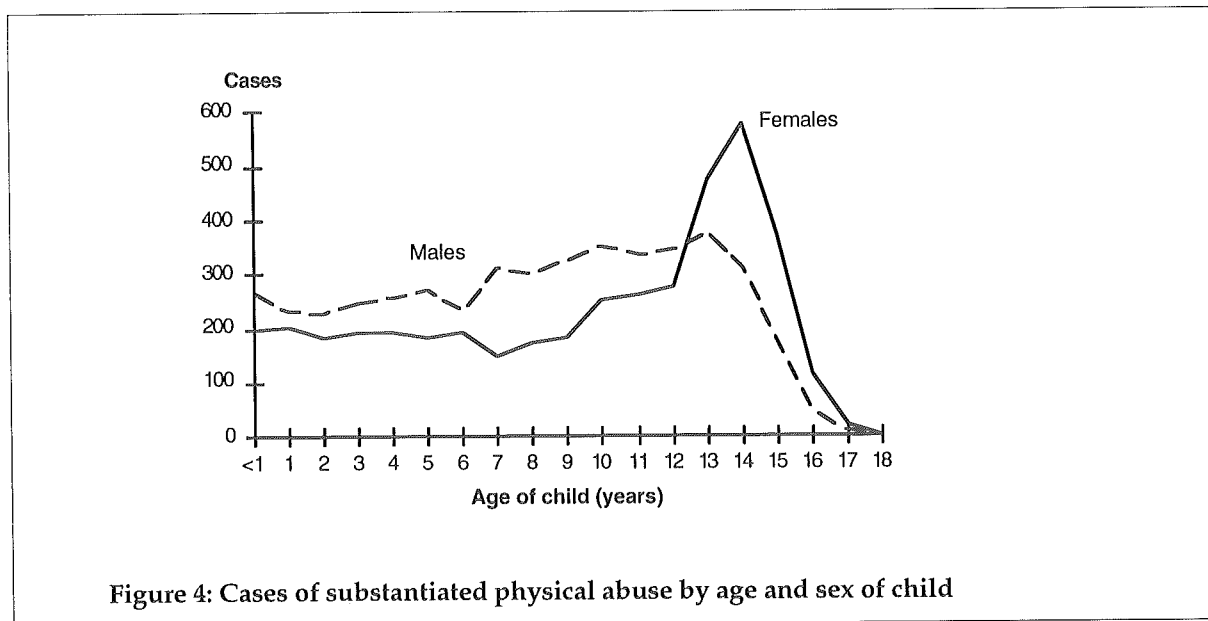


Figure 4: Cases of substantiated physical abuse by age and sex of child

Substantiated cases of emotional abuse were highest among the youngest age group and showed a steady decline with age, except for a sharp increase in the number of cases involving girls in the early teenage years (Figure 5; Table 10).

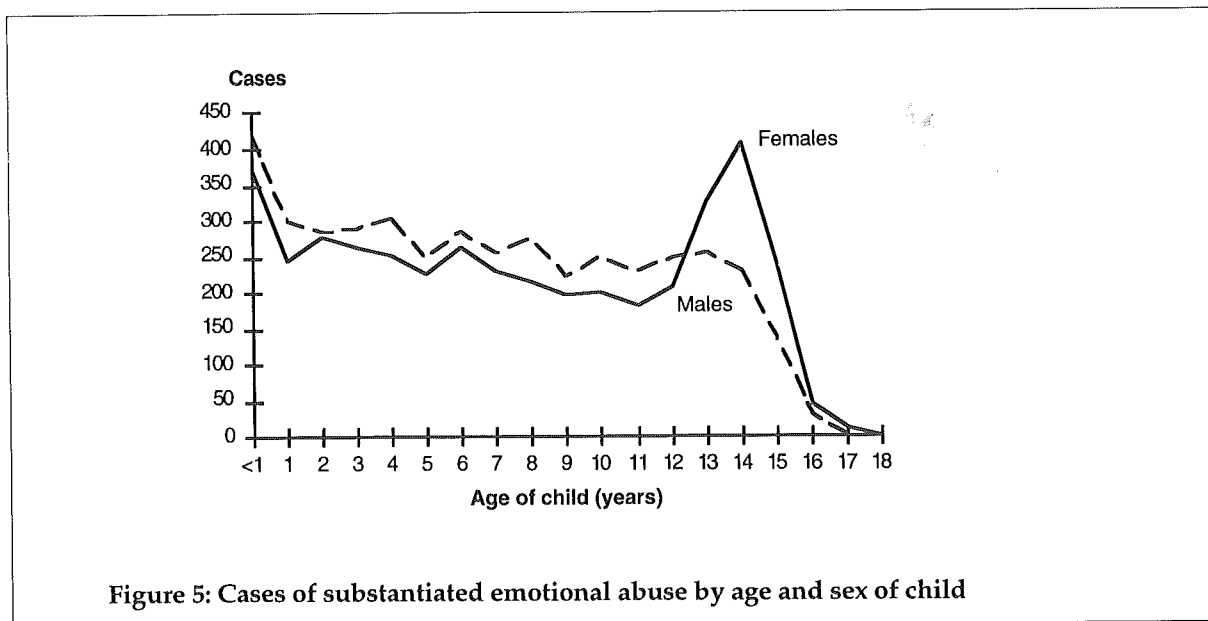
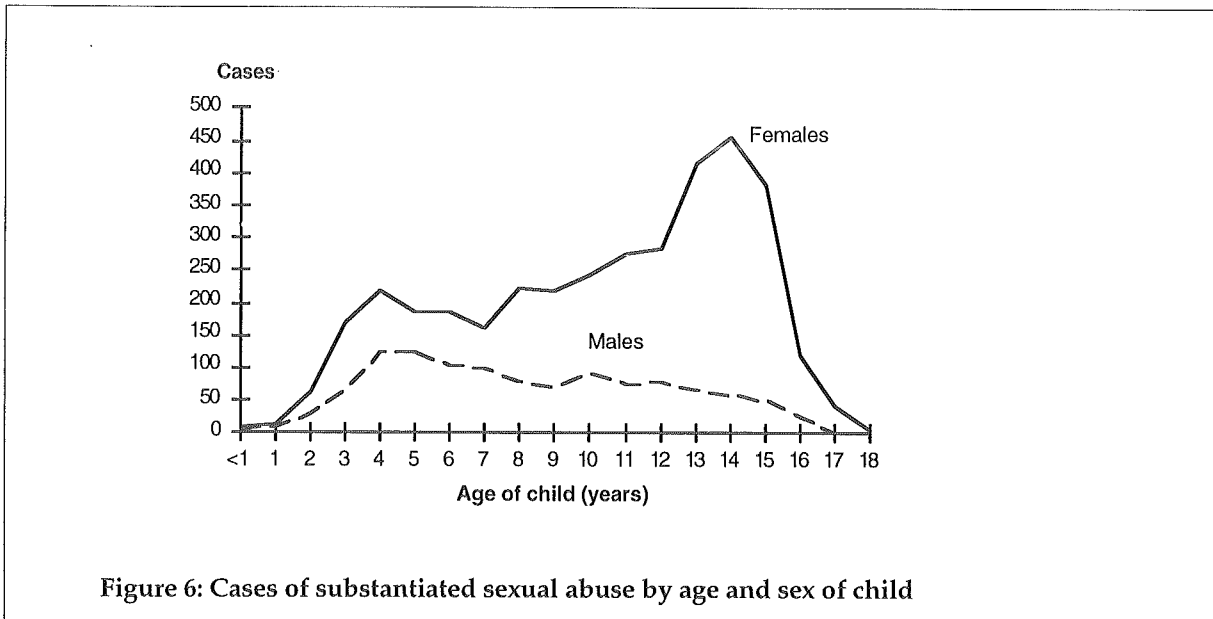
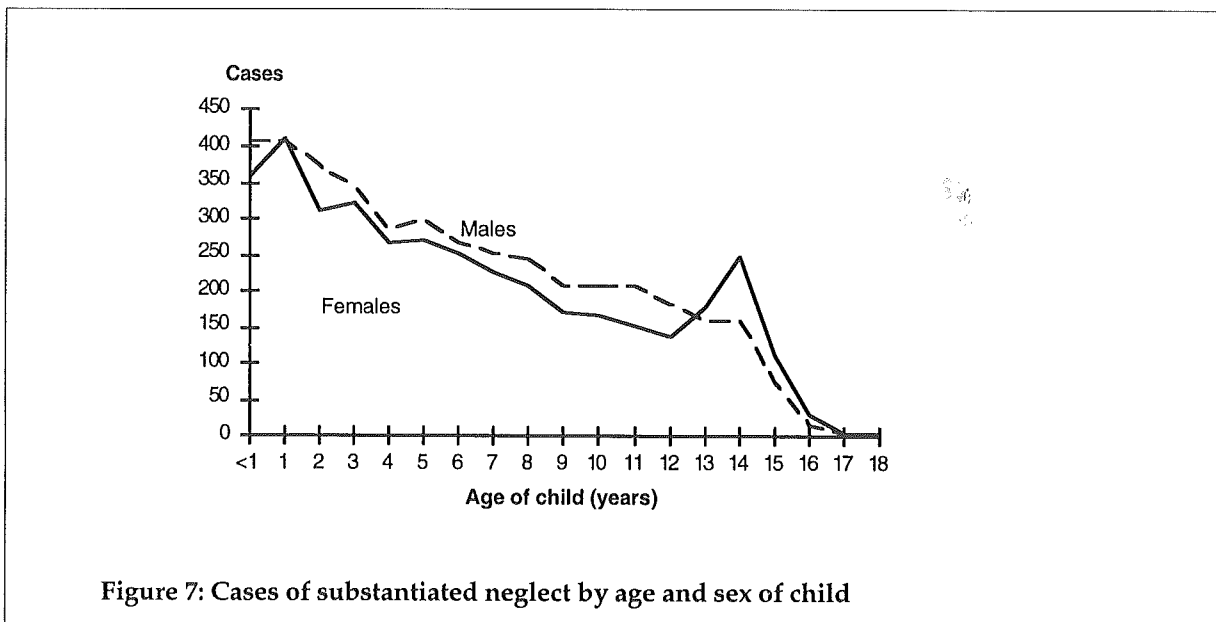


Figure 5: Cases of substantiated emotional abuse by age and sex of child

More girls than boys were the subjects of substantiated sexual abuse cases at all ages, with the highest number of cases involving girls in the early teenage years (Figure 6; Table 10).



Substantiated cases of neglect were highest at the youngest ages, and generally declined with age. Boys outnumbered girls in substantiated cases of neglect in the younger ages but there was a marked increase in the number of cases involving girls in the early teenage years. (Figure 7; Table 10).





## Children

Some children are the subject of more than one case of abuse or neglect in a particular year. The ratios of cases to children give an indication of this, and have been compared for each assessment outcome, type of abuse and neglect, and age of child (Tables 10, 11, 23 and 24).

In 1994–95, the 67,918 finalised cases of child abuse and neglect involved 56,483 children—a ratio of 1.20 cases to one child. The ratio of finalised cases to children aged 0–4 years (1.22) was slightly higher than the overall ratio, while the ratio for children aged 15–17 years was somewhat lower (1.14). The assessment outcome categories with the highest ratios of finalised cases to children were 'Child at risk' (1.30), and 'No abuse or neglect found' (1.24) (Tables 11 and 24).

Of substantiated cases, neglect (1.22) and emotional abuse (1.17) accounted for the highest ratios, and sexual abuse the lowest (1.08). As with finalised cases, the ratio of substantiated cases to children was higher for children aged 0–4 years (1.17) than for older age groups, with the ratio being lowest for those aged 15–17 years (1.08) (Tables 10 and 23).

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the ratio of finalised cases to children was 1.25, slightly higher than for all children. The assessment outcome categories with the highest ratios of finalised cases to children were 'Child at risk' (1.34) and 'No abuse and neglect found' (1.27). The ratio for cases where no action was possible was 1.21 (Tables 16 and 27).

The ratio of finalised cases to children for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was slightly higher (1.31) in 1993–94. In that year, the ratios of finalised cases to children for 'Child at risk' cases was 1.00, for 'No abuse or neglect found' cases 1.43, and for 'No action possible' cases 1.60.<sup>2</sup>

In 1994–95, of substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the ratio was highest for cases of neglect (1.28) and lowest for sexual abuse cases (1.09). The highest ratio of substantiated cases to children was for those aged 6–12 months (1.35). The ratios for physical abuse cases and emotional abuse cases were 1.15 and 1.25 respectively (Tables 15 and 26). In the previous year, however, these ratios were lowest for physical abuse cases (1.14) and highest for cases of emotional abuse (1.37). In 1993–94, the ratios for sexual abuse and neglect cases were 1.16 and 1.25 respectively. The highest ratios of substantiated cases to children in that year were for those aged 2–6 months (1.39) and 13-year-olds (1.34). The ratio for those aged 6–12 months was also high (1.32).

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<sup>2</sup> Ratios of cases to children for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children for 1993–94 have been revised.

## Rates by age group and State and Territory

In 1994–95, 6.1 per 1,000 children<sup>3</sup> Australia-wide were involved in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. Significant variation across the States and Territories underlie this national figure, with New South Wales having the highest rate (8.2 per 1,000 children) and Western Australia (2.9 per 1,000 children) and Tasmania (2.7 per 1,000 children) having the lowest rates (Table 3).

**Table 3: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by State and Territory, 1994–95**

State/Territory	0–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–16 years	Total <sup>(a)</sup>
New South Wales	7.9	7.9	9.4	5.0	8.2
Victoria	7.4	6.4	7.2	4.4	6.7
Queensland	3.8	3.4	4.2	2.1	3.6
Western Australia	3.3	3.0	2.9	1.5	2.9
South Australia	6.1	6.3	6.3	3.6	6.3
Tasmania	1.9	2.1	3.1	1.8	2.7
Australian Capital Territory <sup>(b)</sup>	5.8	4.2	3.8	1.6	4.6
Northern Territory	6.3	5.8	7.2	2.0	6.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>

(a) Calculations of total rates include 483 children of unknown age as most of these would be aged 0–16 years.

(b) Unpublished estimates for the Jervis Bay Territory have been included with the ACT population.

Note: Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0–16 years at 30 June 1995, multiplied by 1,000. Source: ABS 1996a.

The rate of physical abuse was highest for children aged 13 and 14 years (2.9 and 3.1 children per 1,000 respectively). The rate of emotional abuse was highest for children aged under 1 year (2.6), with the next highest rate being for children aged 14 years (2.1). The rate of sexual abuse was highest for those aged 13, 14 and 15 years (1.7, 1.8 and 1.7 respectively) while the rate of neglect was highest for the youngest children, that is, 1-year-olds and children under 1 year (2.6 and 2.5 respectively) (Table 22).

## Abuse and neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Almost 10% of children aged 0–16 years in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children— a much higher percentage than their representation in the Australian population (3%).<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were the subjects in 8% of physical abuse and emotional abuse cases, 7% of sexual abuse cases, and 16% of neglect cases (Tables 10 and 15).

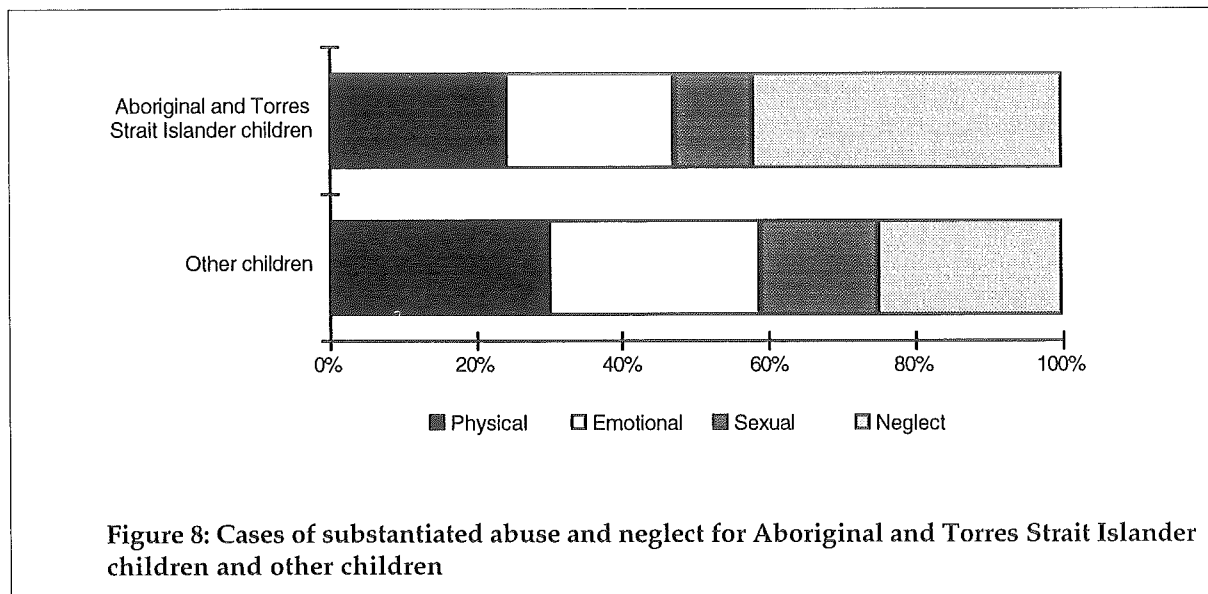
The pattern of substantiated abuse and neglect cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children differed significantly from the pattern for other children. Neglect cases accounted for a much higher proportion (42%) of substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children than of other children in substantiated cases (25%). This pattern was particularly evident in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland, where neglect accounted for more than half of all substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (56%, 56% and 51% respectively)—much higher than for cases involving other children in those States (Tables 9 and 14).<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> These rates are based on the number of children involved in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children aged 0–16 years. They are not measures of the *incidence* of abuse and neglect because not all cases are reported, and because the coverage of the collections varies by State and Territory.

<sup>4</sup> Source: ABS 1996b.

<sup>5</sup> Numbers of substantiated cases involving 'other children' may be derived from Tables 9 and 14.

Sexual abuse accounted for 11% of substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a lower proportion than for other children (17%). The difference was particularly marked in South Australia (8% compared with 23% of other children) and in the Australian Capital Territory (nil compared with 6%) (Tables 9 and 14).



Rates of abuse and neglect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (19.1 per 1,000 children 0–16 years) were much higher than for other children (5.6). For all types of abuse and neglect cases the difference was greatest for neglect, with the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being nearly six times the rate for other children (Table 4).

**Table 4: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by type of abuse and neglect, 1994–95**

Children	Type of abuse and neglect				Total
	Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Neglect	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	4.9	4.3	2.3	7.7	19.1
Other children	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.3	5.6
<b>All children</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>

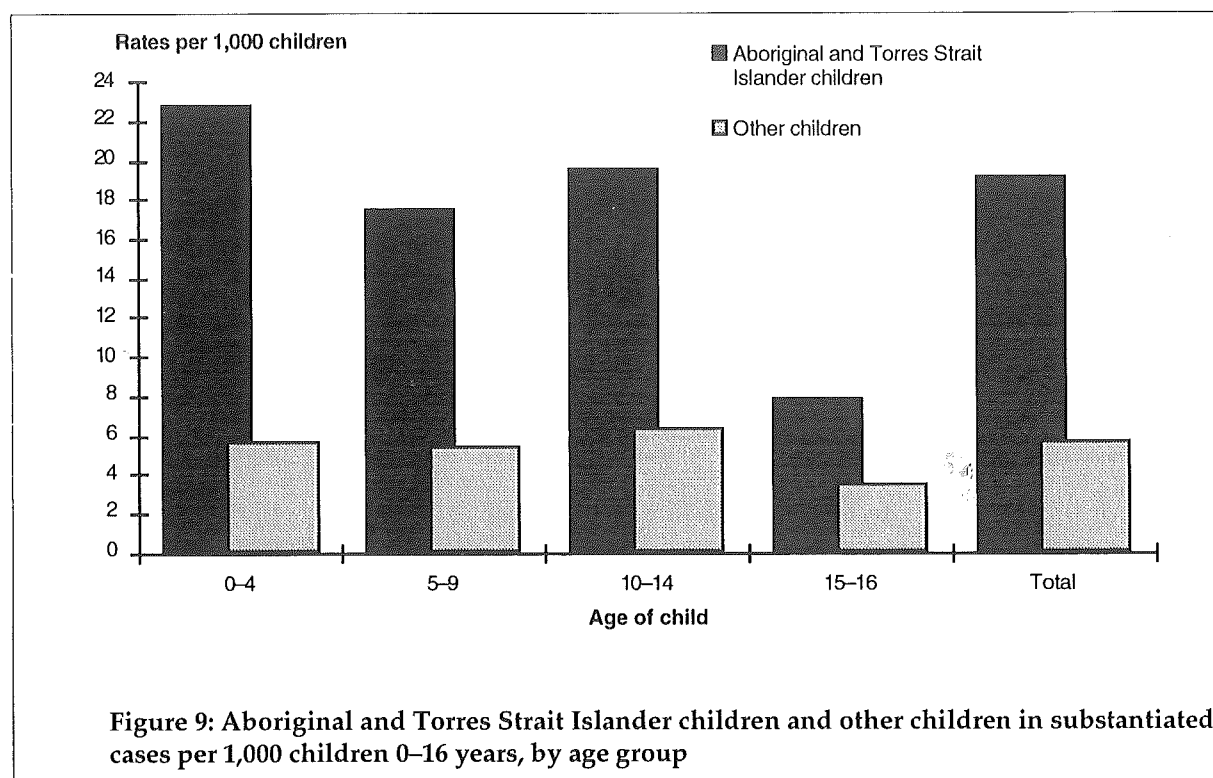
*Note:* Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0–16 years at 30 June 1995, multiplied by 1,000. *Sources:* ABS 1996a; ABS 1996b.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–4 years had the highest rate of abuse and neglect, with a rate of 22.8 per 1,000 children. This compares with a rate of 5.6 for other children aged 0–4 years. The difference between rates of abuse and neglect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other children were greatest for this age group. The rate of abuse and neglect for other children was highest for children aged 10–14 years (6.3), while the rate for other children aged 15–16 years was much lower than for other children aged 0–4 years (Table 5).

**Table 5: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by age group, 1994–95**

Children	Age				Total
	0–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–16 years	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	22.8	17.5	19.6	7.8	19.1
Other children	5.6	5.4	6.3	3.5	5.6
<b>All children</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>

*Note:* Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0–16 years at 30 June 1995, multiplied by 1,000. *Sources:* ABS 1996a; ABS 1996b.



**Figure 9: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other children in substantiated cases per 1,000 children 0–16 years, by age group**

## Source of reports

Reports of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect came from a number of different sources. The highest proportions of reports came from friends and neighbours (16% of cases where the source of the report is known), followed by school personnel (15%), parents or guardians (13%) and the police (12%). Only 2% of reports came from the subject child and less than 1% from siblings. Friends and neighbours were clearly the highest reporters of cases assessed as 'Child at risk' (22% of such cases), 'No abuse or neglect found' (20%) and 'No action possible' (19%), while they were the source of only 10% of substantiated cases (Table 6).

**Table 6: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome, 1994-95**

Source of report	Substantiated		Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>		No abuse or neglect found		No action possible		Total cases finalised	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	913	3	121	4	450	1	79	3	1,562	2
Parent/guardian	3,988	13	368	13	4,247	14	374	13	8,977	13
Sibling	71	—	22	1	137	—	14	—	244	—
Other relative	2,217	7	292	11	3,053	10	371	12	5,930	9
Friend/neighbour	3,140	10	610	22	6,182	20	559	19	10,491	16
Medical practitioner	1,066	4	85	3	973	3	99	3	2,223	3
Other health	792	3	16	1	613	2	50	2	1,471	2
Hospital/health centre	1,407	5	107	4	961	3	86	3	2,561	4
Social worker	2,255	7	184	7	1,482	5	213	7	4,133	6
School personnel	5,170	17	243	9	4,134	13	186	6	9,729	15
Day care	314	1	47	2	421	1	30	1	812	1
Police	4,872	16	266	10	2,605	8	308	10	8,051	12
Department officer	817	3	70	3	724	2	51	2	1,662	2
Non-government organisation	1,406	5	51	2	1,215	4	145	5	2,817	4
Anonymous	975	3	104	4	2,463	8	260	9	3,802	6
Other	864	3	197	7	1,355	4	179	6	2,594	4
Not stated	348	—	13	—	449	—	39	—	849	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,615</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31,464</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67,918</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.  
 Note: 'Not stated' cases have been excluded from calculations of percentages in this table.

Rates of substantiation of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect varied for the different reporting sources. Reports of abuse and neglect from the police and the subject child had the highest rates of substantiation (61% and 58% respectively), followed by social workers and hospital and health centre staff (both 55%) and 'Other health' workers (54%).<sup>6</sup> Reports from anonymous persons (26%), siblings (29%) and friends and neighbours (30%) had the lowest rates of substantiation. Professionals, including medical and health staff and school personnel, had a very consistent substantiation rate ranging from 48% to 53% (Table 20). Friends and neighbours, the largest source of reporting, had one of the lowest rates of substantiation, whereas the subject child, one of the sources reporting least often, had one of the highest rates of substantiation.

If the proportion of cases assessed as *either* substantiated *or* at risk is examined by source of report, the pattern is very similar. Of cases reported by the subject child 66% were either substantiated or assessed as at risk, as were 64% of cases reported by the police and 59% of

<sup>6</sup> Includes nurses, paramedics, dentists, physiotherapists, pharmacists and infant health workers.

cases reported by hospital and health centre staff and social workers. Reports from anonymous sources (29%), friends and neighbours (36%) and siblings (38%) had the lowest rates of assessment as either substantiated or at risk (Table 20).

The type of abuse and neglect identified in substantiated cases varied according to the source of the report. Physical abuse was found in 54% of substantiated cases reported by the subject child, 45% of cases reported by siblings and 42% of cases reported by school personnel. Emotional abuse was identified in 41% of substantiated cases reported by 'Other health' workers and 36% of cases reported by non-government organisations. Twenty-five percent of substantiated cases reported by school personnel involved sexual abuse, as did 23% of cases reported by parents and guardians. Of substantiated cases reported anonymously, 44% were neglect cases. Neglect was also identified in 44% of substantiated cases reported by friends and neighbours (Table 19).

Boys and girls were reported in equal numbers by parents and/or guardians. However, 64% of reports from a subject child were from girls. In 88% of substantiated cases of sexual abuse reported by the subject child, girls were the source of the report. While only 24% of substantiated cases of sexual abuse involved boys, 30% of substantiated sexual abuse cases reported by a parent or guardian related to boys (Table 17).

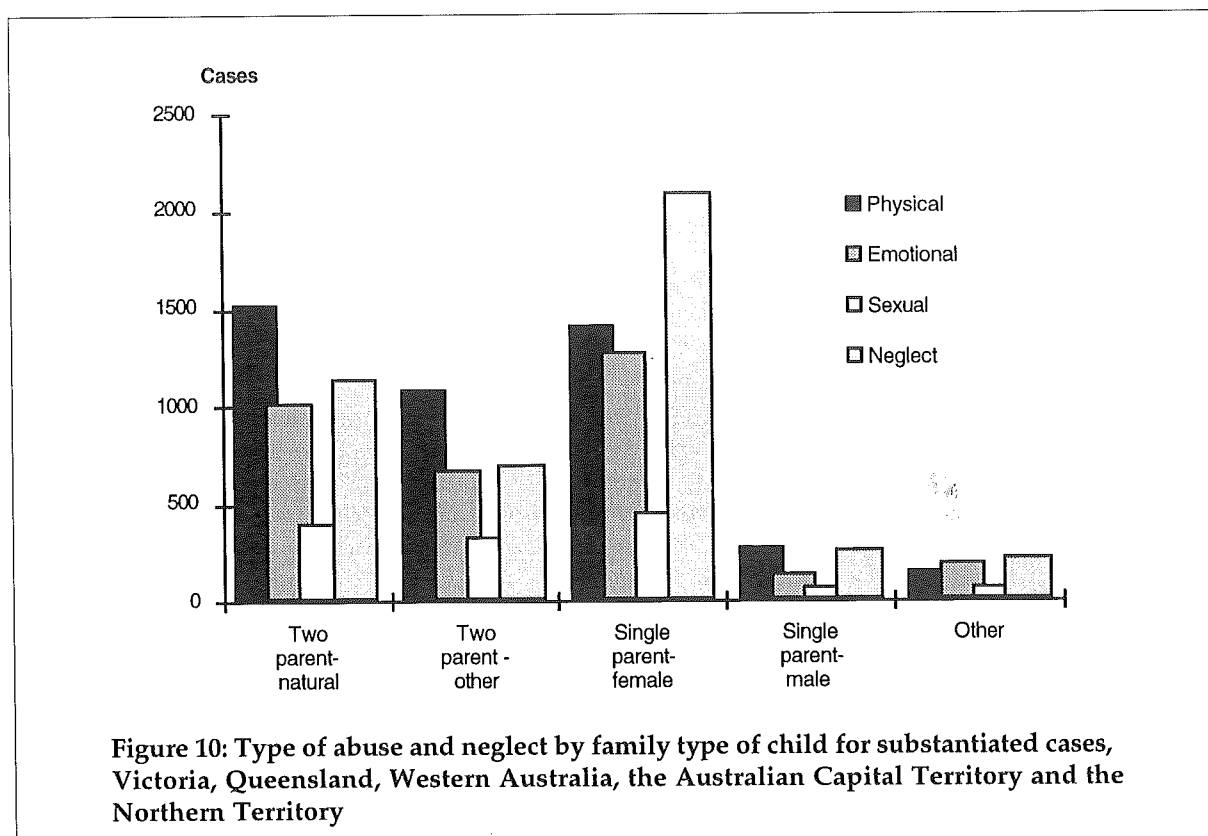
Medical practitioners and other health personnel reported boys and girls who were involved in substantiated cases of physical abuse at a ratio of almost three boys to every two girls, although overall there were only slightly more boys than girls who were the subject of substantiated cases of physical abuse. In substantiated cases of physical abuse where a child was the subject of the abuse and the source of the report, 64% of these children were girls (Table 17).

## 5 Selected data for some States and Territories

### Family type

National data on the family type of children who are the subject of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect are not currently available as some States and Territories do not collect or process this information, or are not able to provide data according to comparable classifications of family type. Data for 1994–95 were provided for Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 34).

Data on family type are available for 13,518 of the 13,544 substantiated cases in these five States and Territories. Of these, 39% involved children from female single parent families, 30% involved children from families with two natural parents and 21% involved children from other two-parent families such as step-parent families (Tables 7 and 33)<sup>7</sup>. Despite problems in comparability of data sources, it is evident that children from single parent families and from 'Other two parent families' were over-represented in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. In 1992, 13% of Australian children were in female single parent families, less than 2% of children were in male single parent families, 81% were in families with both natural parents, 4% were in step-families and less than 1% were in other types of families.<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> It is important to note that the family-type data refers to 'Cases' not 'Children' and that some children may be the subject of more than one case in a particular year.

<sup>8</sup> Estimates are based on children aged 0–14 years in families, Survey of Families in Australia, 1992. (Source: ABS 1995).

In all, 34% of substantiated cases of physical abuse occurred in families with two natural parents and 32% in female single parent families. More substantiated emotional and sexual abuse and neglect cases involved children from female single parent families than from other types of family— 38% of substantiated cases of emotional abuse, 34% of sexual abuse and 47% of neglect cases. In comparison, 31% of substantiated cases of emotional abuse, 30% of substantiated cases of sexual abuse and 26% of neglect involved children from families with two natural parents (Table 7).

**Table 7: Substantiated cases: family type of child by type of abuse and neglect, some States and Territories<sup>(a)</sup>, 1994–95**

Family type	Physical		Emotional		Sexual		Neglect		Total <sup>(b)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Two parent—natural	1,524	34	1,019	31	396	30	1,142	26	4,081	30
Two parent—other	1,082	24	676	20	333	25	703	16	2,794	21
Single parent—female	1,408	32	1,278	38	450	34	2,091	47	5,227	39
Single parent—male	280	6	145	4	70	5	267	6	762	6
Other	156	4	201	6	72	5	225	5	654	5
Not stated	5	—	4	—	2	—	14	—	26	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,455</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,323</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,544</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Table includes data from Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

(b) Total includes one case where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [family type not stated].

## Relationship of maltreater to child

The data collection is seriously affected by 57% of records not being coded to show the relationship of the maltreater to the child. This data item is unavailable for 60% of cases in New South Wales, 85% in Victoria and all cases in South Australia. In addition, the data collection excludes most cases of abuse by a person living outside the child's home for Queensland and the Northern Territory and most cases of neglect for Tasmania, which are likely to involve parents (see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage').

When cases for which 'relationship of maltreater to child' is not stated are excluded, natural parents were identified as being responsible for the abuse or neglect in 72% of substantiated cases, with step-parents, de facto parents, foster parents and guardians combined identified in 12% of cases. Siblings and other relatives were believed responsible in 7% of substantiated cases, friends or neighbours in a further 5% and other persons in the remaining 4% (Table 35).

The type of abuse and neglect varied considerably according to the relationship of the person believed responsible. Physical abuse represented the highest proportion of cases for foster parents, step-parents and de facto parents, and the lowest for friends and neighbours. Emotional abuse showed highest proportions for natural parents followed by other types of parents and guardians. Sexual abuse represented only 4% of cases for natural parents but high proportions of abuse by siblings, other relatives, friends and neighbours and other maltreaters. Neglect was highest for guardians and natural parents (Figure 12).

## Sex of maltreater and relationship to child

Data on the sex of the maltreater and relationship to the child are available for Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory for 1994–95 (Tables 37 to 39). While these data refer to a relatively small proportion of substantiated cases for Australia, they provide an extra dimension to data previously presented.

Data on the sex of the maltreater and relationship to the child are available for 1,379 (93%) of substantiated cases in Western Australia. In 52% of cases for which the sex of maltreater is known, the maltreater was female. Males were believed responsible in 55% of physical



abuse cases, 52% of emotional abuse and 94% of sexual abuse, while females were believed responsible in 88% of neglect cases.

Overall, 65% of natural parents who were believed responsible for abuse or neglect of their children were female while 75% of 'Other parent/guardians' were male and 74% of 'Other family' members were male. Where the maltreater was a friend or neighbour, a male was believed responsible in 85% of cases, with 52 out of 55 of these cases being sexual abuse cases (Table 37).

Table 37 also shows the sex and relationship to the child of the person believed responsible for abuse and neglect by the sex of the child. Of cases in Western Australia involving a male maltreater, 59% of physical abuse cases involved a boy and 82% of sexual abuse cases involved a girl. In cases involving a female maltreater, more girls than boys were the subjects of abuse and neglect (Table 37).

In the Australian Capital Territory, a female was believed responsible in 63% of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect, the percentage being higher in emotional abuse cases (77%) and neglect (85%). A male was believed responsible in 51% of physical abuse cases and all cases of sexual abuse. In 71% of cases in which the maltreater was a natural parent a mother was believed responsible. A male was believed responsible in a high proportion of cases in which the maltreater was not a natural parent (Table 38).

In the Northern Territory, a female was believed responsible in 56% of cases for which sex of maltreater is known. The maltreater was a male in 52% of physical abuse cases and all sexual abuse cases. The maltreater was a female in 88% of neglect cases. In almost all cases involving a female maltreater (172 out of 182), the maltreater was a natural parent of the child (Table 39).

## **Injury and harm**

National data on injury and harm sustained in child abuse and neglect cases are not available because the States and Territories which collect or process it (New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia) do not use the same classifications. Notwithstanding the lack of comparability, some data on injury or harm sustained for these States are included in this publication.

An additional table shows data on actions causing injury and harm for Western Australia (Table 43).

### **New South Wales**

In New South Wales child abuse and neglect cases are classified according to the 'Primary actual abuse'. The classification of injury and harm data is a mixture of items which describe actions responsible for injury and harm to children, and resulting identifiable injury and harm sustained. Almost all of the physical abuse categories are types of injuries (burns, cuts, bruising etc.), although some are actions (threats, administration of alcohol). The categories used for emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect cases are actions (verbal abuse, exposure, failure to provide shelter).

In 22% of substantiated cases of physical abuse, the type of harm sustained was bruising (10% facial or head bruising and 12% other significant bruising), with a further 41% being recorded as 'Other physical'. In cases of substantiated emotional abuse, 22% of cases were attributed to the parent's alcohol or drug use causing emotional harm to the child and another 19% to the parent's emotional state threatening the child. In 42% of substantiated sexual abuse cases the primary abuse was sexual fondling, with a further 18% of cases involving vaginal or anal penetration. In 45% of substantiated neglect cases the child was left without adequate supervision (Table 40).

### **Queensland**

In Queensland, as in New South Wales, the categories used are a mixture of items describing actions causing the injury and harm, and items which describe the type of injury and harm

sustained. Queensland also has an 'Other' category in each type of abuse and neglect, but unlike New South Wales and Western Australia, classifies cases in each of the four types of abuse and neglect as 'At risk of abuse'. The physical abuse categories are types of injuries (burns, cuts, bruising etc.), although there are some actions (threats, administration of alcohol etc.). The categories used for emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect are actions (verbal abuse, exposure, failure to provide shelter etc.).

In 38% of substantiated physical abuse cases the major injury or harm sustained was bruising, while a further 47% of cases were classified as 'Other physical'. In substantiated emotional abuse cases, scapegoating or rejection was recorded as the major harm sustained in 20% of cases, with severe verbal abuse in a further 19% of cases and 53% were 'Other emotional'. In sexual abuse the highest abuse category was 'Other sexual contact' (64%), with a further 14% of cases being penetration with violence or coercion. Of substantiated neglect cases, 32% involved the child being left unattended, 14% were cases where the child's physical needs were neglected, and a further 30% 'Other neglect' (Table 41).

### **Western Australia**

In contrast to the other two States, Western Australia has separate data items for 'Resulting injury or harm' (Table 42) and 'Actions causing injury and harm' (Table 43).

While the 'Resulting injury or harm' table has a category 'No identifiable injury' in all four types of abuse and neglect, this does not necessarily mean that such cases are not serious. While the abuse or neglect may have no immediately identifiable physical or emotional impact, such abuse or neglect may have a long-term effect on the child's health and well-being. In New South Wales and Queensland such cases may be included in the category 'Other'.

In 49% of substantiated cases of physical abuse in Western Australia the major type of harm consisted of cuts or bruises and 39% of these cases were recorded as 'No identifiable injury'. Of the emotional abuse cases, 37% were classified as emotional trauma and 52% were 'No identifiable injury'. Emotional trauma was the major category in sexual abuse cases (42%), with a further 41% having 'No identifiable injury'; 67% of substantiated neglect cases were recorded as 'No identifiable injury' (Table 42).

Table 43 shows actions causing injury and harm by type of abuse and neglect for Western Australia. Almost two-thirds (63%) of physical abuse cases resulted from 'Excess corporal punishment' and a further 23% from 'Other physical action'. 'Persistent carer hostility' was identified as the action causing injury or harm in 22% of emotional abuse cases. In most sexual abuse cases the injury or harm was attributed to 'Indecent dealings/molestation' (76%) and to 'Penetration' (14%). The most common categories of actions causing injury or harm in neglect cases were 'Neglect-supervision', 'Neglect-environment' and 'Abandonment/desertion', which occurred in 36%, 23% and 15% of neglect cases respectively (Table 43).

## 6 Detailed tables

### Assessment outcomes

Table 8: Finalised cases: assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1994–95

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Substantiated	14,164	7,326	4,000	1,484	2,547	360	376	358	30,615
Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>	..	..	1,875	683	..	156	82	..	2,796
No abuse or neglect found	11,712	7,616	4,537	2,308	3,733	832	341	385	31,464
No action possible	1,084	561	872	303	128	(b)	65	30	3,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,960</b>	<b>15,503</b>	<b>11,284</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>6,408</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>67,918</b>
	Percentage								
Substantiated	53	47	35	31	40	27	44	46	45
Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>	..	..	17	14	..	12	9	..	4
No abuse or neglect found	43	49	40	48	58	62	39	50	46
No action possible	4	4	8	6	2	(b)	8	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

(b) Not collected separately; included in 'No abuse or neglect found'.

Table 9: Substantiated cases: type of abuse and neglect by State and Territory, 1994–95

Type of abuse and neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Physical	3,451	2,125	1,496	545	892	202	160	129	9,000
Emotional	4,834	2,468	654	99	424	16	84	18	8,597
Sexual	2,955	655	253	340	542	104	22	53	4,924
Neglect	2,915	2,078	1,597	499	689	38	110	158	8,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,164</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>30,615</b>
	Percentage								
Physical	24	29	37	37	35	56	43	36	29
Emotional	34	34	16	7	17	4	22	5	28
Sexual	21	9	6	23	21	29	6	15	16
Neglect	21	28	40	34	27	11	29	44	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Table includes nine cases from New South Wales and one case from Western Australia where the type of abuse and neglect is not known.

Table 10: Substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total (a)		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	51	51	102	108	98	209	—	2	2	110	85	196	269	236	509
2 and under 6	105	70	175	119	128	248	2	3	5	131	128	259	357	329	687
6 and under 12	112	77	189	191	145	336	3	6	9	165	148	313	471	376	847
<b>Years</b>															
1	231	203	436	302	245	547	8	15	23	408	411	820	950	874	1,827
2	230	185	416	285	278	563	31	62	93	376	310	687	922	835	1,759
3	246	194	440	288	265	553	68	170	238	343	324	668	945	953	1,899
4	260	193	453	303	251	554	125	219	344	284	266	550	972	930	1,902
5	273	186	459	247	227	474	123	186	309	299	269	569	943	868	1,812
6	232	194	426	287	264	551	103	186	289	267	253	520	889	897	1,786
7	312	150	462	256	232	489	98	161	259	251	227	479	917	770	1,689
8	302	174	476	275	215	491	80	222	302	246	207	453	903	818	1,722
9	329	182	511	224	196	420	70	218	288	209	171	382	832	767	1,601
10	351	255	606	250	200	450	92	242	335	209	167	378	903	864	1,770
11	337	261	598	232	181	413	77	278	355	208	153	361	854	874	1,728
12	347	278	626	247	208	456	78	284	362	183	137	321	855	908	1,766
13	377	476	853	255	328	583	68	416	484	161	180	341	863	1,401	2,264
14	313	577	890	232	406	638	60	455	515	159	249	408	764	1,688	2,452
15	175	372	547	137	242	379	51	384	435	76	111	187	439	1,109	1,548
16	45	114	159	29	47	76	24	119	143	17	32	49	115	312	427
17	10	20	30	2	12	14	3	42	45	4	3	7	19	77	96
Adult	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	7	3	3	6	3	11	14
Not stated	75	70	145	85	68	153	22	60	82	73	57	130	255	255	510
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,713</b>	<b>4,283</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,354</b>	<b>4,236</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>16,152</b>	<b>30,615</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include 10 cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [age 1 year: one male case; age 4 years: one female case; age 5 years: one male case; age 10 years: one male case; age 11 years: one female case; age 12 years: one female case; age 13 years: two male cases and one female case; age 14 years: one female case].

**Notes**

1. The respective persons columns include 23 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: four cases; emotional abuse: seven cases; sexual abuse: one case; neglect: 11 cases].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 11: Finalised cases: age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	269	236	509	11	16	27	199	175	376	15	9	24	494	436	936
2 and under 6	357	329	687	35	29	64	297	315	612	27	27	54	716	700	1,417
6 and under 12	471	376	847	34	47	81	492	461	954	48	44	92	1,045	928	1,974
<b>Years</b>															
1	950	874	1,827	130	153	284	1,192	1,130	2,329	136	128	270	2,408	2,285	4,710
2	922	835	1,759	113	126	239	1,285	1,139	2,424	122	127	250	2,442	2,227	4,680
3	945	953	1,899	113	127	240	1,247	1,286	2,534	124	138	264	2,429	2,504	4,937
4	972	930	1,902	108	111	219	1,300	1,215	2,519	120	129	250	2,500	2,385	4,890
5	943	868	1,812	87	102	189	1,112	1,032	2,146	99	95	194	2,241	2,097	4,341
6	889	897	1,786	84	89	173	1,042	1,014	2,057	86	84	170	2,101	2,084	4,186
7	917	770	1,689	85	97	182	1,007	973	1,982	77	79	157	2,086	1,919	4,010
8	903	818	1,722	74	73	147	920	925	1,846	79	70	149	1,976	1,886	3,864
9	832	767	1,601	94	74	168	850	783	1,638	69	60	129	1,845	1,684	3,536
10	903	864	1,770	72	57	130	775	748	1,527	60	60	120	1,810	1,729	3,547
11	854	874	1,728	57	53	110	751	738	1,491	62	61	123	1,724	1,726	3,452
12	855	908	1,766	57	64	121	677	804	1,484	51	63	114	1,640	1,839	3,485
13	863	1,401	2,264	49	86	135	657	926	1,592	68	70	138	1,637	2,483	4,129
14	764	1,688	2,452	53	95	148	579	1,010	1,589	68	130	198	1,464	2,923	4,387
15	439	1,109	1,548	24	61	85	328	626	955	57	98	155	848	1,894	2,743
16	115	312	427	7	28	35	109	225	334	10	28	38	241	593	834
17	19	77	96	3	2	5	28	68	96	—	2	2	50	149	199
Adult	3	11	14	—	—	—	8	10	18	1	4	5	12	25	37
Not stated	255	255	510	8	6	14	457	487	953	80	67	147	800	815	1,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>16,152</b>	<b>30,615</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>15,312</b>	<b>16,090</b>	<b>31,464</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>32,509</b>	<b>35,311</b>	<b>67,918</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

Notes

1. The respective persons columns include 98 cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: 23 cases; child at risk: two cases; no abuse or neglect found: 62 cases; no action possible: 11 cases].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 12: Finalised cases: age of child by State and Territory, 1994-95

Age of child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
0-4 years	8,874	5,380	4,407	1,862	1,990	387	347	297	23,544
5-9 years	7,962	4,367	3,263	1,556	1,979	331	254	225	19,937
10-14 years	7,701	4,651	3,093	1,143	1,632	387	178	215	19,000
15-16 years	1,433	970	507	186	331	94	23	28	3,577
17 years and over	86	35	10	31	64	1	2	7	236
Not stated	904	100	4	—	412	148	55	1	1,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,960</b>	<b>15,503</b>	<b>11,284</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>6,408</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>67,918</b>
<b>Percentage</b>									
0-4 years	33	35	39	39	31	29	40	38	35
5-9 years	30	28	29	33	31	25	29	29	29
10-14 years	29	30	27	24	25	29	21	28	28
15-16 years	5	6	4	4	5	7	3	4	5
17 years and over	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Not stated	3	1	—	—	6	11	6	—	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Abuse and neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Table 13: Finalised cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1994-95

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Substantiated	1,405	239	660	342	225	14	23	194	3,102
Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>	..	..	279	136	..	6	5	..	426
No abuse or neglect found	967	252	595	421	272	12	13	153	2,685
No action possible	92	16	153	63	16	(b)	—	16	356
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>6,569</b>
	Percentage								
Substantiated	57	47	39	36	44	44	56	53	47
Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>	..	..	17	14	..	19	12	..	6
No abuse or neglect found	39	50	35	44	53	38	32	42	41
No action possible	4	3	9	7	3	(b)	—	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

(b) Not collected separately; included in 'No abuse or neglect found'.

Table 14: Substantiated cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by type of abuse and neglect by State and Territory, 1994-95

Type of abuse and neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Physical	249	44	235	85	66	6	3	58	746
Emotional	502	84	62	15	38	—	14	2	717
Sexual	191	16	24	50	19	6	—	25	331
Neglect	459	95	339	192	102	2	6	109	1,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>3,102</b>
	Percentage								
Physical	18	18	36	25	29	43	13	30	24
Emotional	36	35	9	4	17	—	61	1	23
Sexual	14	7	4	15	8	43	—	13	11
Neglect	33	40	51	56	45	14	26	56	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Table includes four cases in New South Wales where the type of abuse and neglect is not known.

Table 15: Substantiated cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	3	4	7	10	11	21	—	—	—	10	16	26	23	31	54
2 and under 6	11	12	23	14	18	32	—	—	—	26	28	54	51	58	109
6 and under 12	13	10	23	16	15	31	—	1	1	30	30	60	59	56	115
<b>Years</b>															
1	38	27	65	34	26	60	1	1	2	84	89	174	157	143	301
2	21	19	40	27	34	61	2	5	7	48	64	112	98	122	220
3	17	21	38	22	24	46	8	18	26	47	54	101	94	117	211
4	13	22	35	34	18	52	6	21	27	46	41	87	99	103	202
5	23	18	41	15	19	34	7	19	26	43	44	87	88	100	188
6	11	17	28	21	23	44	9	15	24	41	41	82	82	96	178
7	15	14	29	23	15	38	8	18	26	41	37	78	87	84	171
8	21	12	33	24	15	39	6	23	29	28	39	67	79	89	168
9	24	15	39	22	16	38	6	11	17	41	22	63	93	64	157
10	37	21	58	20	9	29	5	14	19	42	27	69	104	71	175
11	23	28	51	25	15	40	3	18	21	39	30	69	90	92	182
12	29	25	54	20	25	45	5	14	19	34	23	57	88	87	175
13	29	43	72	18	27	45	4	22	26	19	19	38	71	111	182
14	11	48	59	6	28	34	8	20	28	13	25	38	38	122	160
15	10	27	37	3	6	9	2	18	20	5	10	15	20	61	81
16	4	6	10	3	2	5	3	6	9	1	1	2	11	15	26
17	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	1	3
Adult	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
Not stated	2	1	3	6	8	14	1	2	3	11	11	22	20	22	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>3,102</b>

M=males F=females P=persons

*Notes*

1. Table includes one case where the sex of the child is not known [neglect: aged 1 year].
2. Table includes four cases where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [one male aged 13 years and three females: one aged 4 years, one 11 years and one 14 years].
3. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.



**Table 16: Finalised cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1994-95**

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	23	31	54	1	4	5	15	24	39	—	—	—	39	59	98
2 and under 6	51	58	109	3	4	7	24	31	55	2	3	5	80	96	176
6 and under 12	59	56	115	5	5	10	36	41	77	9	6	15	109	108	217
<b>Years</b>															
1	157	143	301	37	36	73	137	148	285	19	21	40	350	348	699
2	98	122	220	25	14	39	119	109	228	8	10	18	250	255	505
3	94	117	211	22	18	40	98	100	198	15	18	33	229	253	482
4	99	103	202	16	14	30	111	103	214	7	9	16	233	229	462
5	88	100	188	16	10	26	91	92	183	14	5	19	209	207	416
6	82	96	178	11	12	23	86	82	168	16	13	29	195	203	398
7	87	84	171	12	12	24	87	72	159	14	3	17	200	171	371
8	79	89	168	11	11	22	84	76	160	11	7	18	185	183	368
9	93	64	157	12	13	25	82	64	147	4	6	10	191	147	339
10	104	71	175	11	5	16	57	59	118	8	8	16	180	143	325
11	90	92	182	10	6	16	72	67	139	10	14	24	182	179	361
12	88	87	175	8	13	21	59	66	125	9	15	24	164	181	345
13	71	111	182	5	15	20	44	67	111	7	14	21	127	207	334
14	38	122	160	7	13	20	35	91	126	8	20	28	88	246	334
15	20	61	81	—	6	6	21	29	50	4	6	10	45	102	147
16	11	15	26	—	3	3	5	23	28	1	2	3	17	43	60
17	2	1	3	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	5	2	7
Adult	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	1	3	3	6
Not stated	20	22	42	—	—	—	30	38	68	7	2	9	57	62	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>3,102</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>3,138</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>6,569</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

**Notes**

1. Table includes four cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: one case aged 1 year; no abuse or neglect found: one case aged 9 years and two cases aged 10 years].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

## Source of reports

Table 17: Substantiated cases: source of report by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95

Source of report	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total (a)		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Subject child	176	314	490	74	114	188	13	100	113	47	74	121	310	603	913
Parent/guardian	748	558	1,306	664	554	1,218	276	631	907	306	251	557	1,994	1,994	3,988
Sibling	15	17	32	6	8	14	2	8	10	5	10	15	28	43	71
Other relative	330	241	571	379	380	760	50	144	194	317	372	689	1,076	1,140	2,217
Friend/neighbour	356	364	721	415	439	855	43	144	187	727	646	1,377	1,541	1,593	3,140
Medical practitioner	254	181	435	134	134	268	46	155	201	81	81	162	515	551	1,066
Other health	115	78	193	164	161	325	27	68	95	104	75	179	410	382	792
Hospital/health centre	182	159	343	259	221	480	51	203	254	169	160	330	661	743	1,407
Social worker	307	251	558	380	348	729	100	311	411	273	283	556	1,061	1,193	2,255
School personnel	1,081	1,080	2,162	413	509	923	233	1,080	1,313	405	365	771	2,133	3,034	5,170
Day care	54	51	105	50	50	100	12	21	33	40	36	76	156	158	314
Police	494	517	1,011	718	686	1,406	191	568	760	913	782	1,695	2,316	2,553	4,872
Dept. officer	131	103	234	129	113	242	49	71	120	126	94	221	435	381	817
Non-government organisation	156	140	296	264	235	500	33	94	127	252	231	483	705	700	1,406
Anonymous	115	80	195	148	120	268	24	55	79	207	224	433	494	479	975
Other	163	110	273	107	98	205	23	57	80	155	148	305	449	413	864
Not stated	36	39	75	50	66	116	13	27	40	55	59	114	156	192	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,713</b>	<b>4,283</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,354</b>	<b>4,236</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>16,152</b>	<b>30,615</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include 10 cases where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [subject child: one female case; other relative: three female cases; social worker: one male case; school personnel: one male case; other: one male case; not stated: two male and one female case].

Note: Table includes 23 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: four cases; emotional abuse: seven cases; sexual abuse: one case; neglect: 11 cases].

Table 18: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome and sex, 1994-95

Source of report	Substantiated			Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Subject child	310	603	913	42	79	121	177	273	450	29	50	79	558	1,005	1,563
Parent/guardian	1,994	1,994	3,988	173	195	368	2,107	2,136	4,247	174	200	374	4,448	4,525	8,977
Sibling	28	43	71	7	15	22	72	65	137	6	8	14	113	131	244
Other relative	1,076	1,140	2,217	142	150	292	1,508	1,544	3,053	185	186	371	2,911	3,020	5,933
Friend/neighbour	1,541	1,593	3,140	292	318	610	3,025	3,130	6,182	287	268	559	5,145	5,309	10,491
Medical practitioner	515	551	1,066	37	47	85	461	510	973	39	60	99	1,052	1,168	2,223
Other health	410	382	792	12	4	16	308	304	613	23	27	50	753	717	1,471
Hospital/health centre	661	743	1,407	53	54	107	444	515	961	35	51	86	1,193	1,363	2,561
Social worker	1,061	1,193	2,255	76	108	184	710	771	1,482	97	116	213	1,944	2,188	4,134
School personnel	2,133	3,034	5,170	112	130	243	1,908	2,217	4,134	91	95	186	4,244	5,476	9,733
Day care	156	158	314	26	21	47	215	206	421	15	15	30	412	400	812
Police	2,316	2,553	4,872	105	161	266	1,266	1,335	2,605	148	160	308	3,835	4,209	8,051
Dept. officer	435	381	817	37	33	70	376	346	724	23	28	51	871	788	1,662
Non-government organisation	705	700	1,406	28	23	51	621	592	1,215	78	67	145	1,432	1,382	2,817
Anonymous	494	479	975	57	47	104	1,258	1,200	2,463	122	132	260	1,931	1,858	3,802
Other	449	413	864	92	105	197	639	715	1,355	85	93	179	1,265	1,326	2,595
Not stated	156	192	348	7	6	13	217	231	449	22	17	39	402	446	849
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>16,152</b>	<b>30,615</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>15,312</b>	<b>16,090</b>	<b>31,464</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>32,509</b>	<b>35,311</b>	<b>67,918</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

Note: Respective persons columns include 98 cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: 23 cases; child at risk: two cases; no abuse or neglect found: 62 cases; no action possible: 11 cases].

**Table 19: Substantiated cases: source of report by type of abuse and neglect, 1994-95**

Source of report	Physical		Emotional		Sexual		Neglect		Total <sup>(a)</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	490	54	188	21	113	12	121	13	913	100
Parent/guardian	1,306	33	1,218	31	907	23	557	14	3,988	100
Sibling	32	45	14	20	10	14	15	21	71	100
Other relative	571	26	760	34	194	9	689	31	2,217	100
Friend/neighbour	721	23	855	27	187	6	1,377	44	3,140	100
Medical practitioner	435	41	268	25	201	19	162	15	1,066	100
Other health	193	24	325	41	95	12	179	23	792	100
Hospital/health centre	343	24	480	34	254	18	330	23	1,407	100
Social worker	558	25	729	32	411	18	556	25	2,255	100
School personnel	2,162	42	923	18	1,313	25	771	15	5,170	100
Day care	105	33	100	32	33	11	76	24	314	100
Police	1,011	21	1,406	29	760	16	1,695	35	4,872	100
Department officer	234	29	242	30	120	15	221	27	817	100
Non-government organisation	296	21	500	36	127	9	483	34	1,406	100
Anonymous	195	20	268	27	79	8	433	44	975	100
Other	273	32	205	24	80	9	305	35	864	100
Not stated	75	22	116	33	40	11	114	33	348	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30,615</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Total column includes ten cases where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [subject child: one case; other relative: three cases; social worker: one case; school personnel: one case; other: one case; not stated: three cases].

**Table 20: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome, 1994-95**

Source of report	Substantiated		Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>		No abuse or neglect found		No action possible		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	913	58	121	8	450	29	79	5	1,563	100
Parent/guardian	3,988	44	368	4	4,247	47	374	4	8,977	100
Sibling	71	29	22	9	137	56	14	6	244	100
Other relative	2,217	37	292	5	3,053	51	371	6	5,933	100
Friend/neighbour	3,140	30	610	6	6,182	59	559	5	10,491	100
Medical practitioner	1,066	48	85	4	973	44	99	4	2,223	100
Other health	792	54	16	1	613	42	50	3	1,471	100
Hospital/health centre	1,407	55	107	4	961	38	86	3	2,561	100
Social worker	2,255	55	184	4	1,482	36	213	5	4,134	100
School personnel	5,170	53	243	2	4,134	42	186	2	9,733	100
Day care	314	39	47	6	421	52	30	4	812	100
Police	4,872	61	266	3	2,605	32	308	4	8,051	100
Department officer	817	49	70	4	724	44	51	3	1,662	100
Non-government organisation	1,406	50	51	2	1,215	43	145	5	2,817	100
Anonymous	975	26	104	3	2,463	65	260	7	3,802	100
Other	864	33	197	8	1,355	52	179	7	2,595	100
Not stated	348	41	13	2	449	53	39	5	849	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,615</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31,464</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>67,918</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

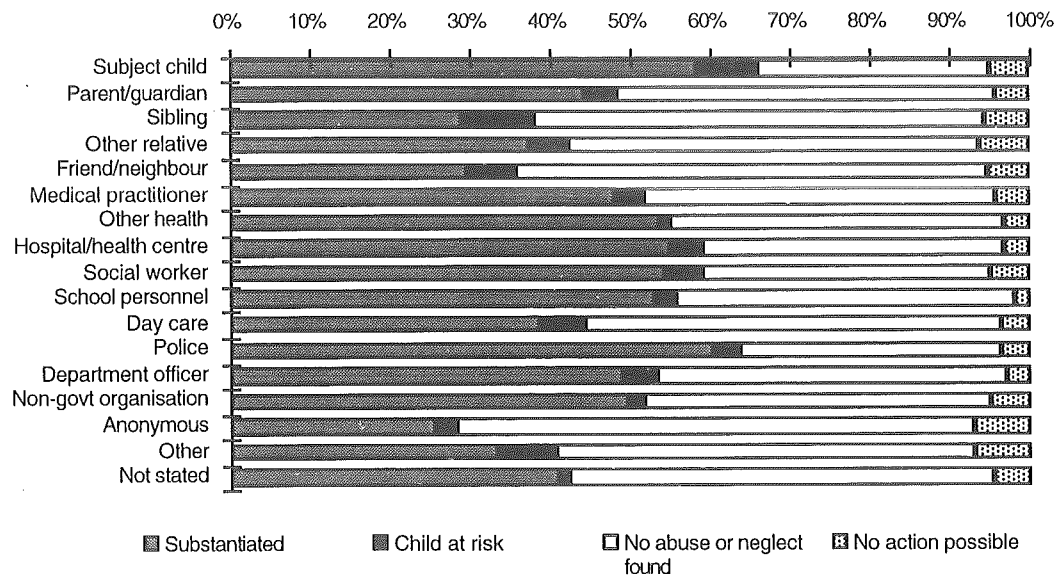


Figure 11: Source of report by assessment outcome for finalised cases

# Children

**Table 21: Children in finalised cases: assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1994-95**

Assessment outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Substantiated									
Physical	2,975	2,080	1,251	464	779	184	154	125	8,012
Emotional	3,973	2,394	464	87	319	14	75	17	7,343
Sexual	2,740	630	216	312	508	99	22	47	4,574
Neglect	2,372	2,022	1,009	401	551	31	95	133	6,614
<i>Total substantiated (a)</i>	<b>12,060</b>	<b>7,126</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>26,544</b>
Child at risk <sup>(b)</sup>	..	..	1,380	565	..	141	66	..	2,152
No abuse or neglect found	9,289	5,997	3,710	2,050	2,819	764	305	343	25,277
No action possible	820	558	714	260	93	(c)	44	21	2,510
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,169</b>	<b>13,681</b>	<b>8,744</b>	<b>4,140</b>	<b>5,069</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>56,483</b>

- (a) Includes one child for Western Australia where the type of substantiated abuse or neglect is not known.  
 (b) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.  
 (c) Not collected separately; included in 'No abuse or neglect found'.

**Table 22: Children 0-16 years and rates of children in substantiated cases per 1,000 children: age of child and estimated resident population by type of abuse and neglect, 1994-95**

Age of child Years	No. of children <sup>(a)</sup>	Physical		Emotional		Sexual		Neglect		Total <sup>(b)</sup>	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
0	256,546	417	1.6	666	2.6	16	0.1	641	2.5	1,740	6.8
1	256,319	396	1.5	468	1.8	23	0.1	665	2.6	1,552	6.1
2	257,952	371	1.4	490	1.9	89	0.3	547	2.1	1,497	5.8
3	257,167	376	1.5	470	1.8	222	0.9	528	2.1	1,596	6.2
4	262,290	406	1.5	477	1.8	320	1.2	446	1.7	1,649	6.3
5	261,013	407	1.6	421	1.6	291	1.1	454	1.7	1,573	6.0
6	256,712	375	1.5	466	1.8	275	1.1	433	1.7	1,549	6.0
7	255,556	409	1.6	396	1.5	243	1.0	373	1.5	1,421	5.6
8	254,749	427	1.7	431	1.7	280	1.1	368	1.4	1,506	5.9
9	258,037	455	1.8	368	1.4	270	1.0	325	1.3	1,418	5.5
10	259,801	535	2.1	384	1.5	299	1.2	314	1.2	1,532	5.9
11	258,391	528	2.0	343	1.3	332	1.3	291	1.1	1,494	5.8
12	259,616	553	2.1	372	1.4	337	1.3	270	1.0	1,532	5.9
13	256,011	743	2.9	486	1.9	432	1.7	279	1.1	1,940	7.6
14	256,798	788	3.1	538	2.1	469	1.8	338	1.3	2,133	8.3
15	249,060	503	2.0	341	1.4	411	1.7	163	0.7	1,418	5.7
16	251,337	151	0.6	72	0.3	135	0.5	47	0.2	405	1.6
Not stated <sup>(c)</sup>		142		141		79		120		483	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,367,355</b>	<b>7,982</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>7,330</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4,523</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>26,438</b>	<b>6.1</b>

- (a) Estimated resident population of Australia excluding external territories at 30 June 1995. *Source:* ABS 1996a.  
 (b) Total column includes one child where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [age not stated].  
 (c) Children with age not stated are included in this table as almost all would be aged 0-16 years.

**Notes**

- This table excludes 106 children aged 17 years or over.
- Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0-16 years at 30 June 1995, multiplied by 1,000.
- Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 23: Children in substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total (a)		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	49	50	99	96	92	189	—	2	2	101	79	180	246	223	470
2 and under 6	93	64	157	103	101	205	2	3	5	105	105	210	303	273	577
6 and under 12	93	68	161	156	116	272	3	6	9	132	119	251	384	309	693
<b>Years</b>															
1	210	184	396	259	209	468	8	15	23	340	324	665	817	732	1,552
2	204	166	371	250	240	490	30	59	89	293	253	547	777	718	1,497
3	210	166	376	242	228	470	62	160	222	275	252	528	789	806	1,596
4	234	172	406	258	219	477	117	203	320	236	210	446	845	804	1,649
5	239	168	407	220	201	421	121	170	291	245	208	454	825	747	1,573
6	205	170	375	253	213	466	100	175	275	217	216	433	775	774	1,549
7	272	137	409	214	181	396	90	153	243	193	179	373	769	650	1,421
8	266	161	427	246	185	431	74	206	280	205	163	368	791	715	1,506
9	289	166	455	195	173	368	69	201	270	177	147	325	730	687	1,418
10	311	224	535	215	169	384	79	219	299	175	139	314	780	751	1,532
11	296	232	528	190	153	343	68	264	332	171	120	291	725	769	1,494
12	313	240	553	203	169	372	70	267	337	159	110	270	745	786	1,532
13	344	399	743	213	273	486	60	372	432	139	140	279	756	1,184	1,940
14	284	504	788	197	341	538	59	410	469	135	203	338	675	1,458	2,133
15	159	344	503	122	219	341	46	365	411	71	92	163	398	1,020	1,418
16	43	108	151	26	46	72	24	111	135	16	31	47	109	296	405
17	9	20	29	2	11	13	3	42	45	4	3	7	18	76	94
Adult	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	6	2	3	5	2	10	12
Not stated	72	70	142	76	65	141	22	57	79	67	53	120	238	245	483
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>7,343</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>4,574</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>6,614</b>	<b>12,497</b>	<b>14,033</b>	<b>26,544</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include one child where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [age not stated: male].

**Notes**

1. Table includes 14 children whose sex is not known [physical abuse: three children; emotional abuse: three children; sexual abuse: one child; neglect: seven children].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 24: Children in finalised cases: age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	246	223	470	9	15	24	169	155	324	14	9	23	438	402	841
2 and under 6	303	273	577	26	20	46	236	245	481	22	19	41	587	557	1,145
6 and under 12	384	309	693	24	32	56	377	363	741	32	36	68	817	740	1,558
<b>Years</b>															
1	817	732	1,552	107	114	222	932	866	1,805	108	91	205	1,964	1,803	3,784
2	777	718	1,497	80	91	171	1,028	943	1,976	91	100	192	1,976	1,852	3,836
3	789	806	1,596	92	92	184	1,007	1,020	2,027	105	106	213	1,993	2,024	4,020
4	845	804	1,649	82	83	165	1,053	990	2,047	101	108	210	2,081	1,985	4,071
5	825	747	1,573	67	77	144	896	845	1,742	80	77	157	1,868	1,746	3,616
6	775	774	1,549	69	65	134	841	818	1,660	69	70	139	1,754	1,727	3,482
7	769	650	1,421	64	80	144	796	785	1,582	57	65	123	1,686	1,580	3,270
8	791	715	1,506	51	60	111	731	739	1,471	66	59	125	1,639	1,573	3,213
9	730	687	1,418	69	57	126	688	635	1,327	55	57	112	1,542	1,436	2,983
10	780	751	1,532	53	45	99	599	625	1,227	47	52	99	1,479	1,473	2,957
11	725	769	1,494	46	38	84	598	581	1,180	53	56	109	1,422	1,444	2,867
12	745	786	1,532	45	46	91	538	648	1,186	47	56	103	1,375	1,536	2,912
13	756	1,184	1,940	44	67	111	536	690	1,231	53	57	110	1,389	1,998	3,392
14	675	1,458	2,133	38	75	113	464	785	1,249	59	107	166	1,236	2,425	3,661
15	398	1,020	1,418	23	56	79	269	482	752	51	84	135	741	1,642	2,384
16	109	296	405	6	24	30	81	199	280	10	27	37	206	546	752
17	18	76	94	2	2	4	27	59	86	—	2	2	47	139	186
Adult	2	10	12	—	—	—	8	10	18	1	4	5	11	24	35
Not stated	238	245	483	8	6	14	427	452	885	74	62	136	747	765	1,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,497</b>	<b>14,033</b>	<b>26,544</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>12,301</b>	<b>12,935</b>	<b>25,277</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>26,998</b>	<b>29,417</b>	<b>56,483</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

Notes

1. Table includes 68 children whose sex is not known [substantiated: 14 children; child at risk: two children; no abuse or neglect found: 41 children; no action possible: 11 children].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 25: Children in finalised cases: State and Territory by age group, 1994-95

Age of child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Under 5 years	7,115	4,813	3,343	1,600	1,474	350	307	253	19,255
5-9 years	6,583	3,845	2,524	1,332	1,568	298	211	203	16,564
10-14 years	6,281	4,066	2,422	1,000	1,314	348	164	194	15,789
15-16 years	1,265	826	444	179	279	91	24	28	3,136
17 years and over	82	34	9	28	59	1	1	7	221
Not stated	843	97	2	1	375	145	54	1	1,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,169</b>	<b>13,681</b>	<b>8,744</b>	<b>4,140</b>	<b>5,069</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>56,483</b>



**Table 26: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95**

Age of child	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total (a)		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	3	4	7	8	11	19	—	—	—	8	15	23	19	30	49
2 and under 6	10	12	22	12	14	26	—	—	—	21	23	44	43	49	92
6 and under 12	12	8	20	12	10	22	—	1	1	20	22	42	44	41	85
<b>Years</b>															
1	37	26	63	28	20	48	1	1	2	71	71	143	137	118	256
2	19	17	36	23	31	54	2	5	7	32	49	81	76	102	178
3	16	17	33	17	18	35	7	18	25	37	35	72	77	88	165
4	12	20	32	30	17	47	5	20	25	35	27	62	82	85	167
5	19	15	34	13	15	28	7	17	24	34	31	65	73	78	151
6	11	15	26	19	19	38	9	14	23	34	34	68	73	82	155
7	15	12	27	19	9	28	6	15	21	28	32	60	68	68	136
8	15	10	25	21	14	35	6	22	28	20	29	49	62	75	137
9	20	14	34	16	14	30	5	8	13	31	21	52	72	57	129
10	32	17	49	16	7	23	4	13	17	36	25	61	88	62	150
11	21	24	45	20	14	34	3	16	19	29	22	51	73	77	150
12	20	17	37	17	18	35	5	13	18	28	16	44	70	64	134
13	26	33	59	12	20	32	4	19	23	17	10	27	60	82	142
14	10	39	49	2	15	17	8	17	25	10	23	33	30	95	125
15	9	26	35	3	5	8	2	17	19	4	10	14	18	58	76
16	4	6	10	2	1	3	3	6	9	1	1	2	10	14	24
17	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	1	3
Adult	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
Not stated	2	1	3	6	7	13	1	2	3	10	10	20	19	20	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>2,545</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include four children where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [age 4 years: one female; age 11 years: one female; age 13 years: one male; and age 14 years: one female].

**Notes**

1. Table includes one child whose sex is not known [age 1 year: neglect].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

Table 27: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in finalised cases: age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1994-95

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk <sup>(a)</sup>			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
<b>Months</b>															
Under 2	19	30	49	1	4	5	12	20	32	—	—	—	32	54	86
2 and under 6	43	49	92	3	2	5	16	24	40	1	2	3	63	77	140
6 and under 12	44	41	85	4	4	8	27	30	57	9	6	15	84	81	165
<b>Years</b>															
1	137	118	256	34	22	56	105	107	212	16	14	30	292	261	554
2	76	102	178	19	10	29	96	96	192	8	8	16	199	216	415
3	77	88	165	14	11	25	78	80	158	15	12	27	184	191	375
4	82	85	167	13	12	25	85	86	171	6	7	13	186	190	376
5	73	78	151	10	6	16	69	76	145	14	5	19	166	165	331
6	73	82	155	9	9	18	64	61	125	13	9	22	159	161	320
7	68	68	136	6	11	17	70	55	125	10	3	13	154	137	291
8	62	75	137	9	7	16	62	66	128	9	5	14	142	153	295
9	72	57	129	8	10	18	67	50	118	4	6	10	151	123	275
10	88	62	150	7	5	12	41	52	94	6	8	14	142	127	270
11	73	77	150	10	4	14	55	49	104	7	12	19	145	142	287
12	70	64	134	6	10	16	44	50	94	8	15	23	128	139	267
13	60	82	142	5	11	16	37	51	88	6	9	15	108	153	261
14	30	95	125	6	9	15	31	67	98	7	14	21	74	185	259
15	18	58	76	—	4	4	20	24	44	3	5	8	41	91	132
16	10	14	24	—	2	2	5	21	26	1	2	3	16	39	55
17	2	1	3	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	5	1	6
Adult	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	1	3	3	6
Not stated	19	20	39	—	—	—	28	33	61	7	2	9	54	55	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>2,744</b>	<b>5,275</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

Notes

1. Table includes three children whose sex is not known [substantiated: one child aged 1 year; no abuse or neglect found: one child aged 9 years and one child aged 10 years].
2. Data for Western Australian children aged under 1 year are included with those aged 1 year.

## Change over time

**Table 28: Reported cases (warranting investigation): State and Territory, 1987-88 to 1994-95**

Year	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1987-88	22,729	3,539	9,812	n.a.	3,898	852	564	722	n.a.
1988-89	19,869	5,282	10,255	1,937	3,213	932	606	374	42,468
1989-90	17,599	8,262	11,190	2,390	2,900	1,163	n.a.	354	n.a.
1990-91	20,646	8,397	11,390	3,084	3,427	1,520	778	479	49,721
1991-92	23,768	9,604	9,296	4,160	3,692	1,562	787	427	53,296
1992-93	26,728	9,898	8,496	4,979	5,736	1,598	1077	610	59,122
1993-94	32,235	15,144	10,672	6,609	6,158	1,639	1,208	771	74,436
1994-95	33,448	15,618	12,476	4,936	6,954	1,663	1,086	773	76,954

(a) The definition of 'case' in Victoria is more restricted than that outlined in Section 7, 'Explanation of terms' (see 'Reporting procedures—Victoria' on pages 6 and 7).

**Table 29: Cases substantiated : State and Territory, 1987-88 to 1994-95**

Year	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1987-88	13,498	1,534	2,923	n.a.	1,008	290	275	332	n.a.
1988-89	10,112	2,445	3,377	739	1,326	336	297	184	18,816
1989-90	9,429	2,950	3,721	884	1,165	n.a.	n.a.	184	n.a.
1990-91	11,611	2,427	3,500	1,223	1,162	472	247	226	20,868
1991-92	12,645	2,146	3,027	1,380	1,048	598	295	232	21,371
1992-93	14,290	4,089	2,743	1,519	1,824	416	445	304	25,630
1993-94	15,128	5,253	3,127	1,830	2,077	424	495	377	28,711
1994-95	14,164	7,326	4,000	1,484	2,547	360	376	358	30,615

(a) Figures for Victoria prior to 1992-93 relate to cases 'Registered' and underestimate the number of cases substantiated.

**Table 30: Cases substantiated and at risk: State and Territory, 1987-88 to 1994-95**

Year	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1987-88	13,498	2,018	4,768	n.a.	1,330	409	387	429	n.a.
1988-89	10,112	2,493	5,361	1,054	1,327	475	396	229	21,447
1989-90	9,429	2,950	5,831	1,294	1,165	n.a.	n.a.	236	n.a.
1990-91	11,611	2,427	5,726	1,638	1,162	695	366	286	23,911
1991-92	12,645	2,146	4,823	1,921	1,048	775	441	290	24,089
1992-93	14,290	4,089	4,281	2,246	1,824	524	552	367	28,173
1993-94	15,128	5,253	4,463	2,773	2,077	578	667	377	31,316
1994-95	14,164	7,326	5,875	2,167	2,547	516	458	358	33,411

(a) Figures for Victoria prior to 1992-93 relate to cases 'Registered' and underestimate the number of cases substantiated and at risk.

Note: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category. Victoria and South Australia ceased to assign children to the 'Child at risk' category from 1989-90 as did the Northern Territory from 1993-94.

Table 31: Reported cases: assessment outcome, 1987-88 to 1994-95

Year	Substantiated	Finalised <sup>(a)</sup>					Not finalised	Total
		Child at risk <sup>(b)</sup>	No abuse or neglect found	No action possible	Total finalised			
1987-88 <sup>(c)</sup>	19,860	2,979	15,548	1,342	39,729	2,387	42,116	
1988-89	18,816	2,631	14,305	1,545	37,297	5,171	42,468	
1989-90 <sup>(d)</sup>	18,333	2,572	17,267	1,454	39,626	3,069	42,695	
1990-91	20,868	3,043	21,288	1,570	46,769	2,952	49,721	
1991-92	21,371	2,718	23,409	1,644	49,142	4,154	53,296	
1992-93	25,630	2,543	25,483	2,239	55,895	3,227	59,122	
1993-94	28,711	2,605	30,871	2,600	64,787	9,649	74,436	
1994-95	30,615	2,796	31,464	3,043	67,918	9,036	76,954	

(a) By 31 August of years up to 1993-94, and 30 September for 1994-95 except for South Australia (16 August 1995).

(b) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category. Victoria and South Australia ceased to assign children to the 'Child at risk' category from 1989-90 as did the Northern Territory from 1993-94.

(c) Data for Western Australia were not available.

(d) Data for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory were not available.

Note: Figures for Victoria prior to 1992-93 relate to 'Registered' cases and underestimate the number of substantiated cases.

Table 32: Rates of children 0-16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by State and Territory, 1990-91 to 1994-95

Year	NSW	Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>(b)</sup>	NT	Australia
1990-91 <sup>(c)</sup>	6.8	2.1	3.9	2.5	3.1	3.6	2.5	4.0	4.1
1991-92	6.9	1.9	3.2	2.8	2.9	4.3	3.2	4.3	4.1
1992-93	8.3	3.8	2.8	2.9	4.9	3.2	4.6	5.5	5.1
1993-94	8.6	4.8	3.1	3.7	5.4	3.0	5.7	6.5	5.7
1994-95	8.2	6.7	3.6	2.9	6.3	2.7	4.6	6.0	6.1

(a) Figures for Victoria prior to 1992-93 relate to 'Registered' cases and underestimate the number of substantiated cases.

(b) Unpublished estimates for the Jervis Bay Territory have been included with the ACT population.

(c) 1990-91 rates have been revised for some States and Territories.

Notes

1. Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0-16 years at 30 June 1995, multiplied by 1,000. Source: ABS 1996a.
2. Table includes children whose age is not stated as almost all would be aged 0-16 years.

## Family type

**Table 33: Substantiated cases: family type of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, some States and Territories<sup>(a)</sup>, 1994-95**

Family type	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Two parent – natural	766	756	1,524	495	524	1,019	87	309	396	579	561	1,142	1,927	2,150	4,081
Two parent – other	560	522	1,082	344	332	676	68	265	333	367	336	703	1,339	1,455	2,794
Single parent–female	742	665	1,408	639	639	1,278	126	324	450	1,052	1,038	2,091	2,559	2,666	5,227
Single parent–male	169	111	280	79	66	145	17	53	70	135	132	267	400	362	762
Other	77	79	156	111	90	201	13	59	72	128	97	225	329	325	654
Not stated	3	2	5	3	1	4	1	1	2	8	6	14	16	10	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>4,455</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>3,323</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>6,570</b>	<b>6,968</b>	<b>13,544</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

**Notes**

- Table includes seven cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical: three cases; neglect: four cases].
- Total includes one case where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [one male: family type not stated]

**Table 34: Finalised cases: family type of child and assessment outcome, some States and Territories<sup>(a)</sup>, 1994-95**

Family type	Substantiated	Child at risk <sup>(b)</sup>	No abuse or neglect found	No action possible	Total
Two parent – natural	4,081	655	3,448	309	8,493
Two parent – other	2,794	653	1,807	155	5,409
Single parent–female	5,227	1,072	4,071	353	10,723
Single parent–male	762	176	555	60	1,553
Other	654	69	695	63	1,481
Not stated	26	15	4,611	891	5,543
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,544</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>15,187</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>33,202</b>

(a) Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

(b) Victoria and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

## Relationship of maltreater to child

Table 35: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1994-95

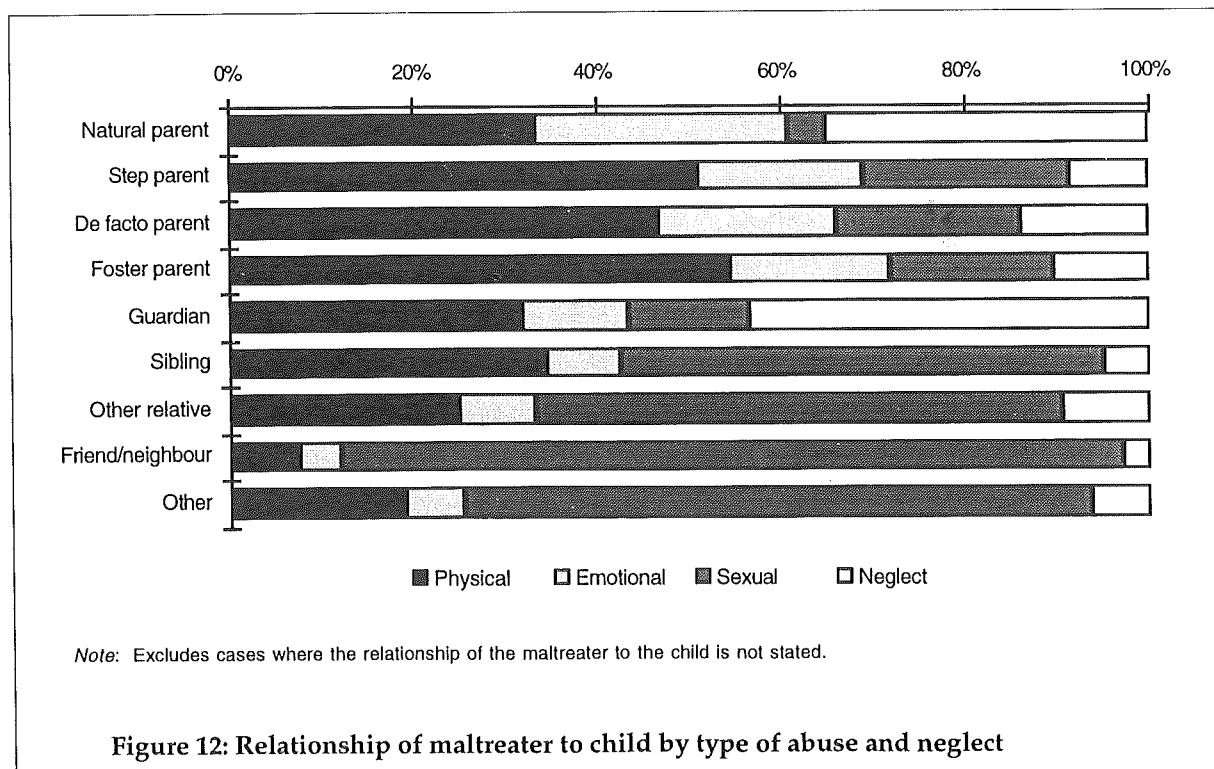
Relationship of maltreater to child	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total <sup>(a)</sup>		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Natural parent	1,568	1,578	3,149	1,330	1,297	2,627	73	307	380	1,726	1,592	3,321	4,699	4,774	9,479
Step-parent	240	207	447	85	72	157	22	174	196	34	40	74	381	494	875
De facto parent	162	131	293	56	65	121	13	113	126	35	52	87	266	361	627
Foster parent	22	15	37	5	7	12	—	12	12	1	6	7	28	40	68
Guardian	13	9	22	4	4	8	1	8	9	12	18	30	30	39	69
Sibling	34	51	85	11	9	20	29	101	130	7	5	12	81	167	248
Other relative	77	74	151	29	22	51	67	280	347	36	22	58	209	398	607
Friend/neighbour	31	21	52	14	17	31	142	439	581	6	14	20	193	491	684
Other	48	44	92	13	19	32	77	252	329	12	19	31	150	334	484
Not stated	2,518	2,153	4,672	2,807	2,724	5,538	762	2,051	2,814	2,313	2,123	4,444	8,403	9,054	17,474
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,713</b>	<b>4,283</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,354</b>	<b>4,236</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>4,182</b>	<b>3,891</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>16,152</b>	<b>30,615</b>

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include 10 cases where the type of abuse and neglect is not known [natural parent: two male cases; step parent: one female case; sibling: one female case; not stated: three male and three female cases].

### Notes

- The respective persons columns include 23 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: four cases; emotional abuse: seven cases; sexual abuse: one case; neglect: 11 cases].
- The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

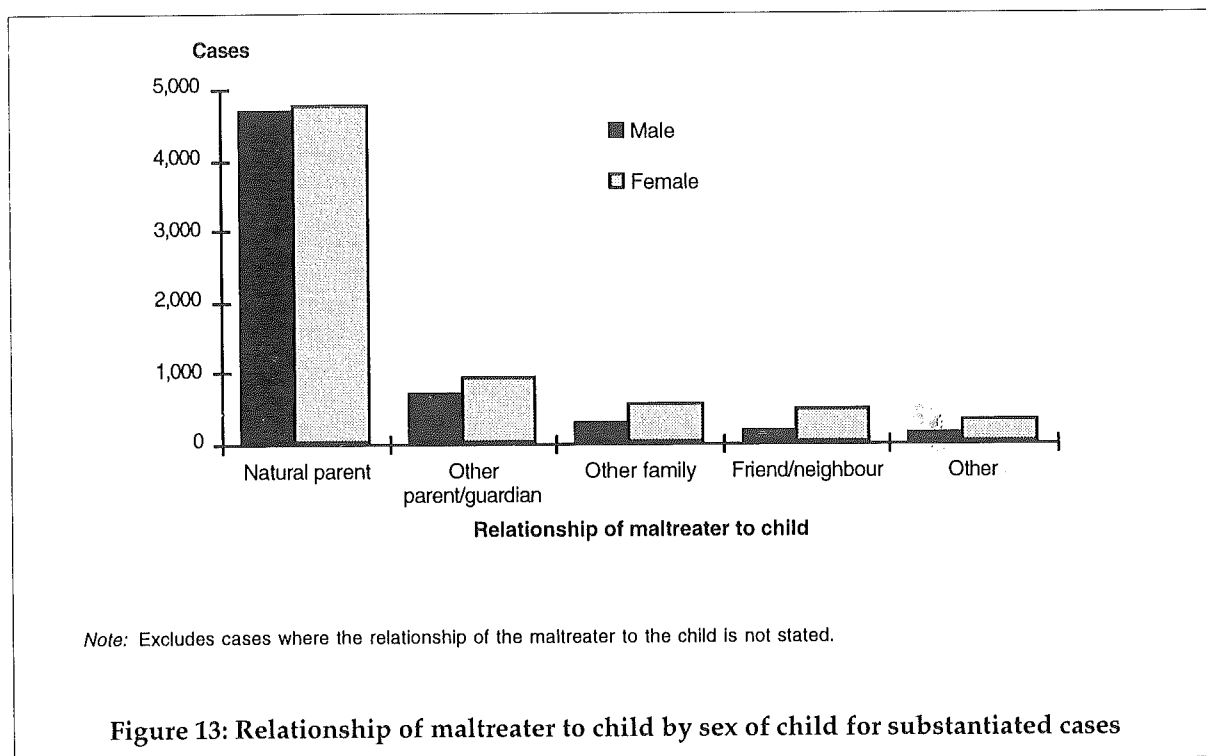


**Table 36: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child by State and Territory, 1994-95**

Relationship of maltreater to child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT
Natural parent	3,910	852	3,015	960	158	323	261
Step-parent	250	69	390	83	38	14	31
De facto parent	213	45	294	43	9	3	20
Foster parent	20	4	36	6	2	—	—
Guardian	17	1	8	42	—	—	1
Sibling	104	21	60	39	12	8	4
Other relative	308	53	116	86	27	7	10
Friend/neighbour	497	31	26	65	58	7	—
Other	346	8	55	60	—	7	8
Not stated	8,499	6,242	—	100	56	7	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,164</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>358</b>

**Notes**

1. The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.
2. The table excludes data for South Australia which are not available.



## Sex of maltreater and relationship to child

Table 37: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child and sex of maltreater by type of abuse and neglect and sex of child, Western Australia, 1994-95

Relationship of maltreater to child	Sex of maltreater	Type of abuse and neglect and sex of child														
		Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total		
		M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Natural parent	M	109	77	186	22	12	34	10	53	63	22	24	48	163	166	331
	F	94	100	197	23	19	42	2	2	4	178	206	385	298	327	628
	P	203	177	383	45	31	76	12	55	67	200	230	433	461	493	960
Other parent/ guardian	M	40	28	68	5	10	15	3	43	46	1	—	1	49	81	130
	F	8	9	17	2	1	3	—	3	3	10	11	21	20	24	44
	P	48	37	85	7	11	18	3	46	49	11	11	22	69	105	174
Other family	M	11	5	16	—	—	—	14	58	72	3	2	5	28	65	93
	F	5	8	13	—	—	—	2	2	4	10	5	15	17	15	32
	P	16	13	29	—	—	—	16	60	76	13	7	20	45	80	125
Friend/neighbour	M	1	1	2	—	—	—	13	39	52	—	1	1	14	41	55
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	7	1	2	3	3	7	10
	P	1	1	2	—	—	—	15	44	59	1	3	4	17	48	65
Other	M	6	4	10	—	1	1	8	27	35	1	2	3	15	34	49
	F	2	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	6
	U	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5
	P	10	9	19	—	2	2	8	27	35	1	3	4	19	41	60
Not stated	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	U	18	9	27	—	3	3	14	40	54	8	8	16	40	60	100
	P	18	9	27	—	3	3	14	40	54	8	8	16	40	60	100
<b>Total</b>	M	167	115	282	27	23	50	48	220	268	27	29	58	269	387	658
	F	109	119	231	25	21	46	6	12	18	199	225	425	340	377	720
	U	20	12	32	—	3	3	14	40	54	8	8	16	42	63	105
	P	296	246	545	52	47	99	68	272	340	234	262	499	650	827	1,484

M=males F=females U=unknown P=persons.

### Notes

1. The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.
2. Table includes seven cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical: three cases; neglect: four cases and type of abuse or neglect unknown: one case].



Table 38: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child and sex of maltreater by type of abuse and neglect and sex of child, Australian Capital Territory, 1994-95

Relationship of maltreater to child	Sex of maltreater	Type of abuse and neglect and sex of child														
		Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total		
		M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Natural parent	M	28	28	56	6	10	16	1	6	7	5	11	16	40	55	95
	F	35	40	75	38	26	64	—	—	—	53	36	89	126	102	228
	P	63	68	131	44	36	80	1	6	7	58	47	105	166	157	323
Other	M	12	13	25	2	—	2	1	10	11	1	—	1	16	23	39
	F	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	3	4	7
	P	13	15	28	2	—	2	1	10	11	3	2	5	19	27	46
Not stated	M	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	3	4	—	—	—	3	3	6
	F	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	P	1	—	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	—	—	—	3	4	7
Total	M	41	41	82	9	10	19	3	19	22	6	11	17	59	81	140
	F	36	42	78	38	27	65	—	—	—	55	38	93	129	107	236
	P	77	83	160	47	37	84	3	19	22	61	49	110	188	188	376

M=males F=females U=unknown P=persons.

Note: The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

Table 39: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child and sex of maltreater by type of abuse and neglect and sex of child, Northern Territory, 1994-95

Relationship of maltreater to child	Sex of maltreater	Type of abuse and neglect and sex of child														
		Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			Total		
		M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Natural parent	M	16	23	39	2	1	3	1	10	11	9	5	14	28	39	67
	F	17	37	54	1	4	5	—	—	—	45	68	113	63	109	172
	U	2	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	12	6	18	15	7	22
	P	35	60	95	4	6	10	1	10	11	66	79	145	106	155	261
Other	M	17	8	25	3	2	5	6	25	31	—	2	2	26	37	63
	F	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	5	3	8
	U	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	3
	P	19	11	30	3	4	7	6	25	31	3	3	6	31	43	74
Not stated	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	11	—	—	—	1	10	11
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
	U	1	3	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	5	5	5	10
	P	1	3	4	1	—	1	1	10	11	4	3	7	7	16	23
Total	M	33	31	64	5	3	8	8	45	53	9	7	16	55	86	141
	F	19	40	59	1	4	5	—	—	—	49	69	118	69	113	182
	U	3	3	6	2	3	5	—	—	—	15	9	24	20	15	35
	P	55	74	129	8	10	18	8	45	53	73	85	158	144	214	358

M=males F=females U=unknown P=persons.

Note: The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

## Injury and harm

Table 40: Substantiated cases: primary actual abuse, New South Wales, 1994-95

Primary actual abuse	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Physical abuse</b>		
Facial/head bruising	332	10
Other significant bruising	431	12
Lacerations/welts	100	3
Cuts/abrasions	63	2
Burns/scalds	22	1
Dislocations/sprains/twisting	9	—
Skull fractures	12	—
Other fractures	29	1
Intentional/abusive administration of drugs & alcohol	17	—
Death of child (non-accidental)	2	—
Death of sibling (non-accidental)	4	—
Threats to physically harm child	144	4
Request for assistance by parent/child/care giver	714	21
Other physical	1,408	41
Not stated	164	5
<i>Total physical</i>	<i>3,451</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Emotional abuse</b>		
Severe verbal abuse	296	6
Continual scapegoating	38	1
Continual rejection	71	1
Child's behaviour to self/others indicates abuse	520	11
Parent's emotional state threatens child	924	19
Parent's psychological disorder/developmental delay leads to emotional harm	245	5
Parent's alcohol/drug abuse leads to emotional harm	1,071	22
Other emotional	1,399	29
Not stated	270	6
<i>Total emotional</i>	<i>4,834</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>		
Genital exposure / voyeurism	112	4
Sexual fondling	1,234	42
Oral sexual behaviour	167	6
Vaginal/anal penetration	530	18
Threat of sexual abuse	47	2
Child's inappropriate sexual behaviour indicates abuse	114	4
Other sexual	630	21
Not stated	121	4
<i>Total sexual</i>	<i>2,955</i>	<i>100</i>

(continued)

Table 40: Substantiated cases: primary actual abuse, New South Wales, 1994-95 (continued)

Primary actual abuse	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Neglect</b>		
No abuse	449	15
Failure to provide food or shelter	174	6
Failure to protect child's health	71	2
Failure to provide medical care or medical/nursing aid	100	3
Left without adequate supervision	1,304	45
Other neglect	668	23
Not stated	149	5
<i>Total neglect</i>	<i>2,915</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Not stated</b>	9	
<b>Total cases substantiated</b>	<b>14,164</b>	

Table 41: Substantiated cases: most serious type of abuse and neglect, Queensland, 1994-95

Most serious type of abuse and neglect	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Physical abuse</b>		
Bruising	568	38
Cuts/abrasions	72	5
Burns	12	1
Skull fractures	11	1
Other fractures	25	2
Internal injuries	5	—
Alcohol/drug administration	12	1
Other physical	697	47
At risk of physical abuse	94	6
<i>Total physical</i>	<i>1,496</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Emotional abuse</b>		
Severe verbal abuse	124	19
Scapegoating/rejection	129	20
Chronic emotional deprivation	28	4
Other emotional	346	53
At risk of emotional abuse	27	4
<i>Total emotional</i>	<i>654</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>		
Penetration with violence/coercion	36	14
Penetration without violence	20	8
Other sexual contact	161	64
Other sexual	28	11
At risk of sexual abuse	8	3
<i>Total sexual</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Neglect</b>		
Neglect of physical needs	226	14
Inadequate living conditions	114	7
Left unattended	517	32
Abandoned	116	7
Neglect of health care	57	4
Neglect of education	27	2
Other neglect	483	30
At risk of being neglected	57	4
<i>Total neglect</i>	<i>1,597</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Total cases substantiated</b>	<b>4,000</b>	

Table 42: Substantiated cases: type of injury or harm, Western Australia, 1994-95

Type of injury or harm	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Physical abuse</b>		
Cuts/bruises etc.	273	49
Fractured skull, brain damage	4	1
No identifiable injury	219	39
Scald, burn, fracture	16	3
Emotional trauma	20	4
Death	1	—
Other physical	26	5
<i>Total physical</i>	559	100
<b>Emotional abuse</b>		
Emotional trauma	27	37
No identifiable injury	38	52
Other emotional	8	11
<i>Total emotional</i>	73	100
<b>Sexual abuse</b>		
Anal/vagina trauma	41	12
Cuts/bruises etc.	2	1
Emotional trauma	143	42
No identifiable injury	140	41
Other sexual	15	4
<i>Total sexual</i>	341	100
<b>Neglect</b>		
Avoidable illness	25	5
Cuts/bruises etc.	13	3
Emotional trauma	45	9
Impaired development	19	4
No identifiable injury	337	67
Other neglect	61	12
<i>Total neglect</i>	500	100
<b>Not stated</b>	11	
<b>Total cases substantiated</b>	<b>1,484</b>	

Table 43: Substantiated cases: actions causing injury and harm, Western Australia, 1994-95

	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Physical abuse</b>		
Excess corporal punishment	354	63
Shaking/throwing	13	2
Strangulation/suffocation	8	1
Other physical action	130	23
Persistent caregiver hostility	6	1
Indecent dealings/molestation	3	1
Penetration	2	—
Neglect- supervision	8	1
Neglect- environment	6	1
Abandonment/desertion	2	—
Other	21	4
Not stated	6	1
<i>Total physical</i>	<i>559</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Emotional abuse</b>		
Excess corporal punishment	8	11
Other physical action	9	12
Persistent caregiver hostility	16	22
Neglect- environment	4	5
Abandonment/desertion	4	5
Other	30	41
Not stated	2	3
<i>Total emotional</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Sexual abuse</b>		
Other physical action	7	2
Non-physical exploitation	6	2
Indecent dealings/molestation	259	76
Penetration	47	14
Other	17	5
Not stated	5	1
<i>Total sexual</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>100</i>

(continued)

Table 43: Substantiated cases: actions causing injury and harm, Western Australia, 1994-95  
(continued)

	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
<b>Neglect</b>		
Other physical action	9	2
Persistent caregiver hostility	4	1
Neglect- supervision	182	36
Neglect- shelter	21	4
Neglect- environment	113	23
Neglect- clothing	11	2
Neglect- medical	22	4
Neglect- food	43	9
Abandonment/desertion	77	15
Other	16	3
Not stated	2	—
<i>Total neglect</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>100</i>
<b>Not stated</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Total cases substantiated</b>	<b>1,484</b>	

## **7 Explanation of terms**

### **Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander**

An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she is associated. Following investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, a subject child is recorded as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander when the child identifies as such, or when the child's principal care giver identifies the child as such.

### **Age**

Age is calculated from date of birth at the time a report is made, and is shown in completed years, or in completed months where age is less than 1 year.

### **Allegations received**

Allegations received refer to all allegations of child abuse and neglect that come to the notice of a relevant authority. An allegation which warrants investigation becomes a report.

### **Assessment outcome**

The outcome of a case is designated as either 'Substantiated abuse or neglect', 'Child at risk', 'No abuse or neglect found' or 'No action possible'.

### **Substantiated abuse or neglect**

A case is given an outcome of 'Substantiated' where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been or is being abused or neglected. Substantiation does not necessarily require sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution and does not imply that treatment or case management was, or is to be, provided (see 'Types of abuse and neglect substantiated' on page 11).

### **Child at risk**

A case is classified as 'Child at risk' where no abuse or neglect can be substantiated but there are reasonable grounds to suspect the possibility of prior or future abuse or neglect and it is considered that continued departmental involvement is warranted. This category is used in Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory only.

### **No abuse or neglect found**

A case is classified to this category where an investigation has concluded that there is no reasonable cause to suspect prior, current or future abuse or neglect of the child.

### **No action possible**

A case is classified to this category where for any reason it was not possible to take action on a report of child abuse and neglect.



## Case

A case is a report of abuse or neglect where:

- there has been no previous report of abuse or neglect concerning the child; or
- investigations concerning any previous report have been finalised; or
- the investigation relating to any previous report concerning the child is incomplete but involves allegations of a different maltreater or of a different nature.

A case can involve only one child; a report claiming that two children have been abused or neglected is regarded as two cases, even if it relates to children from one family. A child may be the basis of more than one case in a reporting period where:

- investigations concerning any previous report have been finalised, or
- the investigation relating to any previous report concerning the child is incomplete but involves allegations of a different maltreater or of a different nature.

Therefore the number of cases does not necessarily equal the number of individuals. If an unknown number of children are reported, the number of cases will be determined during investigation. The count of cases in the tables includes only reports made in the reporting period; a case does not have to be finalised to be included in some tables.

### Finalised case

A finalised case is one reported in the reporting year, and for which a decision regarding substantiation is made and the investigation completed by the cut-off date for these statistics—that is, by the following 31 August for years up to 1993–94 and by 30 September 1995 for 1994–95. South Australian data for 1994–95 were based on a cut-off date of 16 August 1995; South Australian data for earlier years (included in Table 30 and 31) were based on cut-off dates around mid-August.

'Finalised' does not mean that the child protection case is closed—the child or family may still be awaiting or receiving services.

### Cases not finalised

A case is classified as not finalised if it is reported in the reporting year and a decision regarding substantiation has not been made by the following 30 September.

## Child

The definition of a child is based on the age at the time abuse or neglect is reported. The age differs across States and Territories as follows: for New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania a child is aged under 17 years; for Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory a child is aged under 18 years.

A small number of cases involving persons over these ages were investigated. In 1994–95, persons aged 18 years or more were involved in 51 finalised cases.

A child may be the subject of more than one case during the year. The compilation of data relating to children requires the identification of each child who may have been the subject of different reports in the enumeration period. There would be some double-counting of children in States which have a statutory authority as well as a department investigating abuse or neglect unless there was a procedure to identify the same child in both organisations.

## Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse and neglect occurs when a person (generally having the care of a child) inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, on the child a physical injury or deprivation which may create a

substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or the impairment of either physical health and development or emotional health and development other than by accidental means.

In Queensland only abuse and neglect inflicted by a person living within the child's home is investigated by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, except in cases where the parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child, or where it is not known if the person believed responsible lives in the child's home.

In the Northern Territory, Territory Health Services only investigates cases of abuse and neglect within the family and the immediate family circle (including Aboriginal kinship). The Department also investigates cases involving a person outside the immediate family circle where it appears that the child's care givers are unable or unwilling to protect the child.

## **Having the care of**

A person is regarded as having the care of a child when he or she has either permanent or temporary custody, control or responsibility at the time of abuse and neglect, regardless of whether this is on a regular, part-time or ad hoc basis.

## **Maltreater**

The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect. Generally the maltreater is a person who has care of the child, although this publication includes some cases of abuse (particularly sexual abuse) by other persons.

Where there is more than one maltreater, the statistics are based on the maltreater who is believed to have inflicted the most severe abuse or neglect, or is most likely to have harmed the child or put the child at risk. Where it is not possible to identify the maltreater in this way, the maltreater is identified as the person who inflicted the most obvious form of abuse or neglect.

## **Parents and other relatives**

### **Natural parent**

A natural parent is any male or female who is the biological or adoptive parent of the child.

### **Step-parent**

A step-parent is any person who is not the biological or adoptive parent of a child but is or was involved in a legal marriage relationship with one of the child's biological parents.

### **De facto parent**

Any male or female who is not the biological or adoptive parent of the child and who is the de facto marital partner of the child's parent is a de facto parent to that child.

### **Guardian**

A guardian is any person who has the legal and ongoing care and responsibility for the protection of a child.

### **Foster parent**

A foster parent is any person (or such a person's spouse) who is being paid a foster allowance by a government or non-government organisation for the care of a child (excluding children in family group homes).

## **Sibling**

A sibling is a natural (ie. biological), adopted, foster, step- or half-brother or sister to a child.

## **Other relative**

This category includes a grandparent, aunt, uncle or cousin, whether the relationship is a full, half, or step, relationship. This category includes members of Aboriginal communities who are accepted as being related to the child by that community.

## **Principal maltreater**

Where there is more than one maltreater, the principal maltreater is the person who is known to have, alleged to have, or confessed to having, inflicted or be inflicting the most severe maltreatment, or is the most likely to have harmed or put the child at risk. Where it is not possible to assess this, the principal maltreater is the person who has inflicted or is inflicting the most obvious form of maltreatment.

## **Relevant authority**

A relevant authority is an organisation to which reports of child abuse and neglect are made. This includes all State and Territory welfare departments and all other authorities (such as the Child Protection Board of Tasmania) recognised by the welfare departments as being responsible for collecting data for the purposes of this collection.

## **Report**

A report of child abuse or neglect has been made when a person or organisation makes an allegation to a relevant authority that a child has been, is being currently, or is likely in the future to be abused or neglected, *and a decision is made by the relevant department or authority that an investigation is warranted.*

## **Source of report**

The source of a report is that person or organisation who initially reports child abuse or neglect to a participating authority. The source is classified according to its relationship to the child or children allegedly abused or neglected.

## **Type of abuse or neglect**

Substantiated cases are classified to one of four categories: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Where more than one type of abuse or neglect has occurred the case is classified to that most likely to be the most severe or most likely to place the child at risk in the short term, or if such an assessment is not possible, to the most obvious form of abuse or neglect.

### **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse is any non-accidental physical injury inflicted upon a child.

### **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is any act which results in the child suffering any kind of significant emotional deprivation or trauma.

**Sexual abuse**

Sexual abuse is any act which exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.

**Neglect**

Neglect is defined as any serious omissions or commissions which, within the bounds of cultural tradition, constitute a failure to provide conditions that are essential for the healthy, physical and emotional development of a child.

## **8 Related legislation**

The following legislation relates to child protection in Australia:

### **Commonwealth**

*Family Law Act 1975*

### **New South Wales**

*Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987*

### **Victoria**

*Children and Young Persons Act 1989*

### **Queensland**

*Children's Services Act 1965*

*Health Act Amendment Act 1980*

### **Western Australia**

*Child Welfare Act 1947*

*Community Services Act 1972*

### **South Australia**

*Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act 1979*

*Children's Protection Act 1993*

### **Tasmania**

*Child Welfare Act 1960*

*Child Protection Act 1974*

*Child Protection Amendments Act 1986, 1987 and 1991*

*Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968*

### **Australian Capital Territory**

*Children's Services Act 1986*

### **Northern Territory**

*Community Welfare Act 1983*

## 9 Related AIHW publications

### Child Welfare Series

Number 1: *Adoptions Australia, 1990-91*

Number 2: *Child Abuse and Neglect Australia, 1990-91*

Number 3: *Children under Care and Protection Orders Australia, 1990-91*

Number 4: *Adoptions Australia, 1991-92*

Number 5: *Child Abuse and Neglect Australia, 1991-92*

Number 6: *Children under Care and Protection Orders Australia, 1991-92*

Number 7: *Adoptions Australia, 1992-93*

Number 8: *Child Abuse and Neglect: Reporting and Investigation Procedures in Australia, 1994*

Number 9: *Child Abuse and Neglect Australia, 1992-93*

Number 10: *Children under Care and Protection Orders Australia, 1992-93*

Number 11: *Adoptions Australia, 1993-94*

Number 12: *Children under Care and Protection Orders Australia, 1993-94*

Number 13: *Child Abuse and Neglect Australia, 1993-94*

Number 14: *Adoptions Australia, 1994-95*

Number 15: *Children under Care and Protection Orders Australia, 1994-95*

### Other publications

*Australia's Welfare: Services and Assistance 1993*

*Australia's Welfare: Services and Assistance 1995*

## 10 References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1995. Australian Social Trends 1995. ABS cat. no. 4102.0. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996a. Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, States and Territories of Australia, June 1994 and Preliminary June 1995. ABS cat. no. 3201.0. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996b. Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population 1991–2001. ABS cat. no. 3231.0. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

Child abuse or neglect occurs when a person (generally having the care of a child) inflicts, or allows to be inflicted on the child, other than by accidental means, a physical injury or deprivation which may create a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or the impairment of either physical or emotional health and development.

This publication is the sixteenth in the Child Welfare Series by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It presents, for each State and Territory, information on reports of child abuse and neglect made to welfare departments in Australia during 1994-95. It shows the number of cases and characteristics of children affected, including the type of abuse, age and sex of the child, the source of report, nature of injury or harm, and relationship to the child and sex of the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.



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