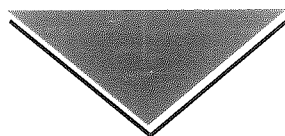


ChildWelfare Series
Number 13

**Child abuse
and neglect
Australia
1993-94**

**Graham Angus
and
Sue Woodward**



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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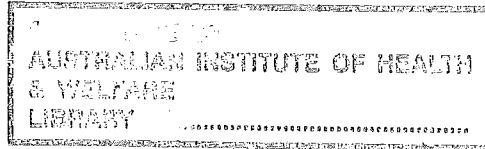
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CHILD WELFARE SERIES
Number 13



Child abuse and neglect Australia 1993-94

Graham Angus
and
Sue Woodward

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

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This is the thirteenth publication of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Child Welfare Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.

ISSN 1320-081X

ISBN 0 642 22979 1

Suggested citation

Angus G & Woodward S (1995). *Child abuse and neglect Australia 1993-94*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Child Welfare Series No. 13, AGPS, Canberra.

Any enquiries about or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Graham Angus
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
GPO Box 570
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (06) 244 1000

Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Printed by the Australian Government Publishing Service

Contributing departments

The data in this report were provided by the following State and Territory departments. Their cooperation is acknowledged.

New South Wales (NSW)

Department of Community Services
Locked Bag 28
Ashfield 2131
Phone: (02) 716 2222

Victoria (Vic)

Department of Health and Community Services
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne 3001
Phone: (03) 616 7777

Queensland (Qld)

Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs
GPO Box 806
Brisbane 4001
Phone: (07) 224 2111

Western Australia (WA)

Department for Family and Children's Services
PO Box 6334
East Perth 6004
Phone: (09) 222 2555

South Australia (SA)

Department for Family and Community Services
PO Box 39
Rundle Mall
Adelaide 5000
Phone: (08) 226 7000

Tasmania (Tas)

Department of Community and Health Services
GPO Box 125B
Hobart 7001
Phone: (002) 33 4700

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)

Housing and Community Services Bureau
Locked Bag 3000
Woden 2606
Phone: (06) 207 5111

Northern Territory (NT)

Department of Health and Community Services
PO Box 40596
Casuarina 0811
Phone: (089) 89 2400

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Preface

This report was prepared by Graham Angus and Sue Woodward of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It is the Institute's fourth report on child abuse and neglect and the thirteenth 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

It should be noted that this report, while containing considerable detail on the number and nature of reported child abuse and neglect cases in Australia, does not include information about the level of seriousness of cases nor the type and extent of support services provided. These data are being developed and in future will provide a more detailed and accurate picture.

Many occurrences of child abuse and neglect are unreported, while many reported cases are unsubstantiated. This report concerns cases reported to State and Territory authorities and does not aim to measure the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

- State and Territory welfare departments received 74,436 reports of child abuse and neglect during 1993–94: a rise of 26% over 1992–93. Of these, the assessment of 64,787 cases (87%) was finalised. While all States and Territories experienced a rise in the number of reports from 1992–93 to 1993–94, rises ranged from 2.6% in Tasmania to 53% in Victoria. The large rise in Victoria can be at least partly attributed to publicity surrounding the introduction of mandatory reporting in 1993.
- Of the 64,787 cases of child abuse and neglect finalised during the year, 28,711 cases were substantiated. This was 44% of finalised cases—less than the 46% recorded in 1992–93. A further 2,605 cases (4%), were not substantiated but the child was assessed as being at risk. There were 30,871 cases (48%) in which no abuse or neglect was found, and a further 2,600 cases (4%) where no action was possible.
- The 28,711 cases of child abuse and neglect substantiated during 1993–94 involved 24,845 children and represent an increase of 12% from 1992–93.
- Children of both sexes were represented almost equally in substantiated cases of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect while females were the victims in the majority (74%) of sexual abuse cases.
- The largest numbers of children in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect were those aged 13 and 14 years, (1,729 and 1,816 respectively)— rates of 6.8 and 7.3 per 1,000 children respectively.
- A natural parent was believed responsible in 72% of substantiated cases, a step-parent in 6% and a de facto parent in 5%. Friends and neighbours were believed responsible in 6% of cases.
- The highest number of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect were reported by friends and neighbours (16% of finalised cases), parents (14%), school personnel (12%) and police (12%).
- Reports of abuse and neglect from the subject child and from social workers had the highest rates of substantiation (58% each), followed by cases reported by the police (57%), health workers other than a medical practitioner (56%) and hospital and health centre staff (54%). Reports from anonymous persons (24%), and friends and neighbours (30%) showed the lowest rates of substantiation.
- Eight per cent of children in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a much higher proportion than they represent in the Australian population aged 0–16 (3%).
- Rates of abuse and neglect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (15.2 per 1,000 children 0–16 years) were much higher than for all children (5.7). For children aged 0–4 years the corresponding rates were 16.3 and 6.0 respectively. There were 5.8 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children 0–16 years involved in cases of neglect, compared with 1.4 for all children.
- In New South Wales, bruising was the major injury in 24% of substantiated cases of physical abuse. In cases of substantiated emotional abuse, 25% of cases were attributed to the parent's emotional state threatening the child, and another 25% to the parent's alcohol or drug use causing emotional harm to the child. In 43% of substantiated sexual abuse cases the primary abuse was sexual fondling. Forty-two per cent of substantiated neglect cases resulted from the child being left without adequate supervision.

1 Introduction

This publication presents statistics on child abuse and neglect provided by State and Territory welfare departments for the year 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994 (1993-94).

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 6, 'Explanation of terms'. Data for years prior to 1990-91 (shown in Tables 31-33) 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'.

2 Scope and coverage

The scope of this collection includes all reports of child abuse and neglect made to authorised departments and relevant statutory authorities during the year ended 30 June 1994. There are however some gaps in coverage, as outlined below.

In Queensland, abuse and neglect inflicted by a person living within the child's home is investigated by the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, and the police are responsible for investigating abuse and neglect by someone living outside the child's home. The department will also investigate cases involving a person living outside the child's home where the parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child, and 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 therefore not included in this report. During 1993-94, Queensland introduced a report known as a 'Protective advice', where the Department provides advice and support and acts as a consultant on child protection matters to the public, family members, community agencies and other government departments. There were 428 requests for protective advice in 1993-94, in addition to reports of child abuse and neglect.

A similar situation exists in the Northern Territory where the Department of Health and Community Services investigates cases of abuse and neglect within the family and the immediate family circle (including Aboriginal kinship). The department also investigates cases involving persons outside the immediate family circle where it appears that the child's care givers are unable or unwilling to protect the child. However, cases other than those outlined above are generally investigated by the police and are not included in this report.

In Tasmania, the Department of Community and Health Services is responsible under the *Child Protection Act 1974* for the protection of children who have suffered, or who are at risk of suffering, abuse. Cases reported under this Act represent all reported abuse cases, but only a minority of neglect cases, and are recorded on the Child Protection database. These data are included in this report. However the department is also responsible for the investigation of cases of neglect notified under the terms of the *Child Welfare Act 1960*, and these cases are recorded on a separate database, the Child Welfare Information System. These data are not available for 1993-94.

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 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, and some 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 all States and Territories the outcome is designated as either 'Substantiated', 'Child at risk' (except in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory—see 'Child at risk and substantiation', page 6), 'No abuse or neglect found' or 'No action possible'.

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 of abuse considered most severe, most obvious or the greatest risk to the child in the short term.

The high number of unfinalised cases in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland in 1993–94 was due mainly to increasing workloads within the child protection system. High workloads also led to the outcome of some finalised cases not being recorded as such on some States' computer systems.

Mandatory reporting

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

New South Wales

Medical practitioners have been required by law to report physical and sexual abuse since 1977. 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 June 1993 the Victorian Government legislated for mandatory reporting of child abuse by certain professional groups including doctors, primary and secondary school teachers, police officers, youth and care workers, social workers, welfare workers and other workers in the health, education, community and welfare services fields. The government decided on a phased approach to mandatory reporting so that target training could be provided and to enable protective services to meet the additional workload. Doctors, nurses and police were mandated from late 1993, primary and secondary school teachers from July 1994. Some of these new arrangements were introduced during 1993-94 and would affect data in this publication.

Queensland

Doctors are required by law to notify the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs of all suspected cases of child abuse under the *Health Act Amendment Act 1980*. 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, not by mandatory reporting, but by a series of reciprocal protocols that have been negotiated with key government and non-government agencies. 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, 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.

Australian Capital Territory

There is currently no mandatory reporting of child abuse in the Australian Capital Territory. 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. However, 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 Australian Capital Territory government to consider enacting this provision. The newly elected Government is currently considering its response to the recommendations of the committee.

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, Youth and Children's Services office of the Department of Health and Community Services or to the police, who will then notify Family, Youth and Children's Services.

Child at risk and substantiation

There is some variation between States and Territories on 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'. However, the percentage of substantiated cases in New South Wales is comparable to the combined percentage of cases substantiated and at risk in other States and Territories. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some cases which would formerly have been shown as 'Child at risk' are now classified as substantiated emotional abuse.

In South Australia, the use of the 'Child at risk' category was discontinued during 1989; cases formerly classified to that group are now shown as 'Inconclusive' and included with 'No abuse or neglect found'.

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

Other States and Territories 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

Recent legislative changes in Victoria have resulted in the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) becoming the central investigation agency. The police ceased their involvement in receiving notifications of child abuse and neglect in 1992. The data in this publication, therefore, relate only to notifications made to the Department of Health and Community Services. The DHCS follows up allegations of child abuse and neglect, including assessment, investigation, counselling and placement of children.

In Victoria a more restricted interpretation of 'investigation' is used than in the other States and Territories. An investigation by the Victorian Department of Health and Community 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 values would be higher than shown.

Queensland

In Queensland, child protection services are coordinated by the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs under the *Children's Services Act 1965*. All notifications, including those of the police, are provided to the Child Protection Section of the Division of Protective Services and Juvenile Justice—see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage'.

Western Australia

During 1993-94 child protection in Western Australia was coordinated by the Advisory and Co-ordination Committee on Child Abuse (ACCCA) and investigated by the Department for Family and Children's Services (DFCS—formerly the Department for Community development), which functions under the *Child Welfare Act 1947*. The Department, through its district offices, 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 child maltreatment allegations investigated by the Department. Cases where investigation was not required but services may have been provided by the Department or these other agencies are excluded.

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* and the *Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act 1979*. The police, who are required to report allegations of abuse and neglect to FACS, may conduct their own investigations or may investigate jointly 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.

Investigation and case management are carried out by officers of the Department of Community and Health Services (DCHS) who are authorised officers of the 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*.

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.

Australian Capital Territory

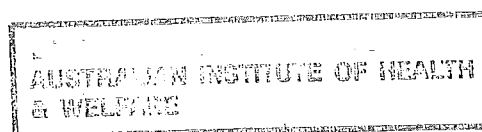
The statutory framework for the provision of child protection services in the Australian Capital Territory is contained in the *Children's Services Act 1986*. The Act provides for voluntary notification of children who are alleged to be at risk of abuse or neglect. Voluntary notifications are received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

Family Services considers each notification and where appropriate, notifications are investigated according to their assessed priority.

All information on notifications of child abuse and neglect is collected and maintained on a central Client Information System within Family Services.

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 the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) of notifications made to them. Investigations of alleged abuse and neglect are carried out by authorised staff of the DHCS. In cases of alleged sexual abuse and serious physical abuse the police are also involved in the investigation.



4 Child abuse and neglect 1993–94

State and Territory welfare departments received 74,436 reports of child abuse and neglect during 1993–94: an increase of 26% over 1992–93. (A report is defined as an allegation that warrants investigation). Of these, the assessment of 64,787 cases was finalised (see definition on page 43). There were 9,649 cases—a much higher number than in past collections—which had not been finalised by the close off date for these statistics, 31 August 1994 (Table 1) (see also 'Assessment outcomes' on page 4). Eighty-five per cent of cases not finalised were from New South Wales (4,136 cases), Queensland (2,083 cases) and Victoria (2,026 cases) (Table 7).

Change over time

The number of cases reported increased from 42,468 in 1988–89 to 74,436 in 1993–94, an increase of 75% over the five year period (Table 31). Cases assessed as 'Substantiated' and 'Child at risk' increased from 21,447 to 31,316 over this period—an increase of 46% (Table 32).

Each year since 1987–88, substantiated cases have increased at a lower rate than reported cases, except between 1991–92 and 1992–93 (Table 33).

Assessment outcomes

Of the 64,787 cases of child abuse and neglect finalised during the year, 28,711 cases were substantiated (44% of finalised cases). A further 2,605 cases (4%) were not substantiated but the child was assessed as being at risk. There were 30,871 cases (48%) in which no abuse or neglect was found, and a further 2,600 cases (4%) where no action was possible (Figure 1; Table 1).

The 28,711 cases of child abuse and neglect substantiated during 1993–94 involved 24,845 children. This is an increase of 12% from 1992–93 (Table 1).

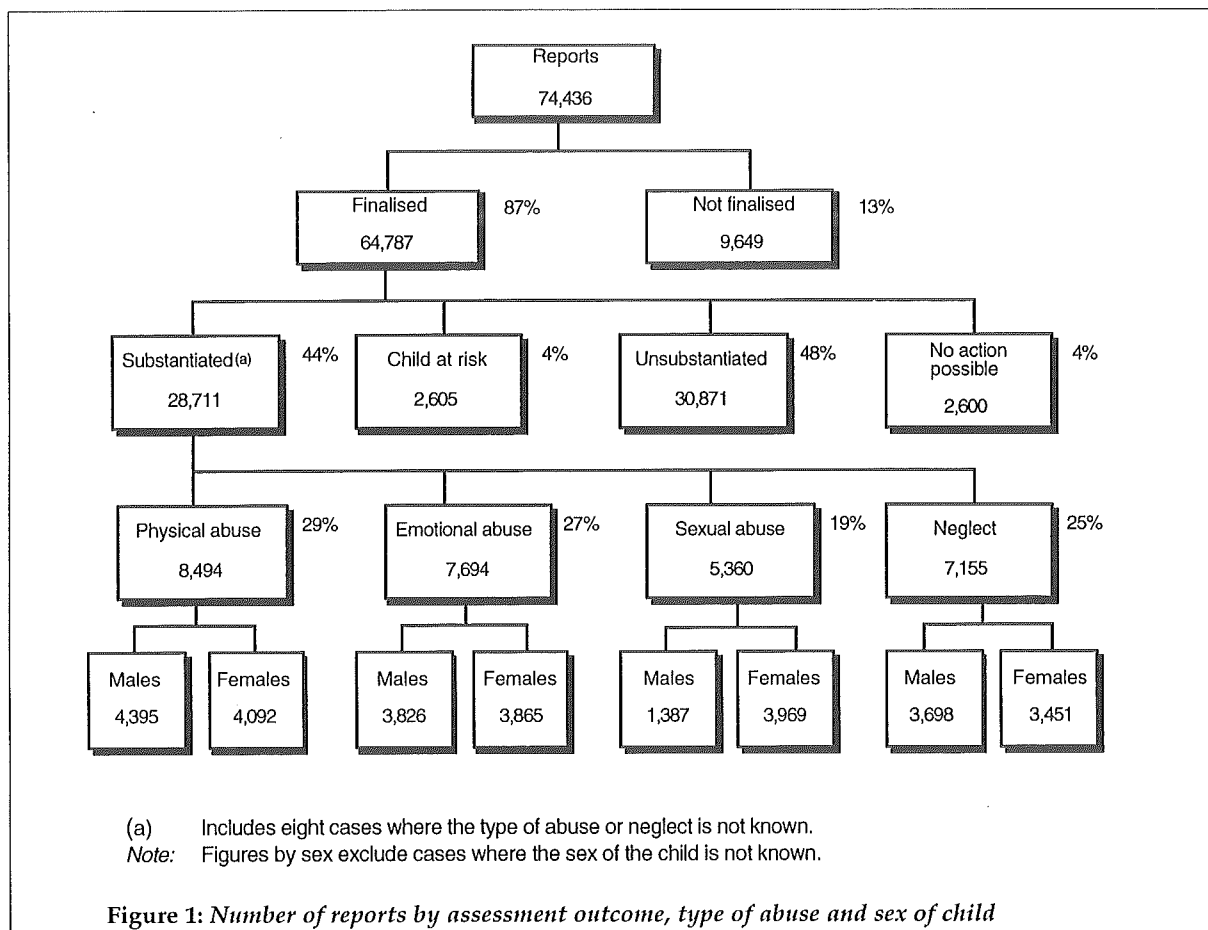
Table 1: Number of cases and children: counting units by assessment outcome, 1993–94

Counting units	Finalised				Total finalised	Not finalised	Total
	Abuse or neglect substantiated	Child at risk ^(a)	No abuse or neglect found	No action possible			
Cases	28,711	2,605	30,871	2,600	64,787	9,649	74,436
Children	24,845	1,997	25,770	2,126	54,738	7,533	62,271

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

The proportion of cases substantiated varied considerably between States and Territories. New South Wales and the Northern Territory had the highest levels of substantiated cases (54% and 49% of finalised cases respectively), while Tasmania and Western Australia had the lowest levels of substantiation (29% and 30% of finalised cases respectively). Combining substantiated cases with those classified as 'Child at risk', for those States and Territories that use this category provides a more even pattern across the States and Territories (Table 10).

Tasmania and South Australia had the largest proportion of cases where no abuse or neglect was found (61% and 60% of finalised cases respectively), with the Australian Capital Territory (39%) having the smallest proportion (Table 10).



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, 27% were cases of emotional abuse, 19% of sexual abuse, and 25% of neglect (Figure 1; Table 13). This pattern represents a departure from that in 1992-93, when sexual abuse and neglect each comprised around 23% of the total.

There are major variations between States and Territories in the proportion of each type of abuse and neglect, reflecting at least in part the different policies and practices in operation. Physical abuse cases were a particularly high proportion of substantiated cases in Tasmania (49%), Queensland (40%) and South Australia (39%).

The highest proportions of emotional abuse were in the Australian Capital Territory (37% of substantiated cases), New South Wales (33%) and Victoria (30%).

Sexual abuse accounted for a high proportion of cases in Tasmania (36%) and South Australia (28%), with Queensland (7%) and the Australian Capital Territory (7%) having the lowest proportions. In Queensland, cases where the person believed responsible for the abuse lives outside the child's home are investigated by the police and are not included in this data collection. Many of these are sexual abuse cases.

Neglect represented a much larger proportion of cases in the Northern Territory (47%), Queensland (37%) and Western Australia (36%) than in other States and Territories. These

three States and Territories have the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who are the subject of a large proportion of neglect cases (see 'Abuse and neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children', page 13). Tasmania had the lowest proportion of neglect cases (4%). In Tasmania, data on the majority of neglect cases are unavailable, explaining why they represent a relatively small proportion of the total number of substantiated cases—see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage' (Table 13).

Children

A child could be the subject of more than one case of abuse or neglect in a particular year. The ratio of the number of finalised cases of abuse and neglect (Tables 8 and 9) to the corresponding number of children (Tables 29 and 30) gives the average number of cases per child, and an indication of the number of children who have been the subject of more than one report during 1993–94.

In 1993–94 the 64,787 finalised cases of child abuse and neglect involved 54,738 children—a ratio of 1.18 cases per child. The outcome categories with the highest ratio of finalised cases to children were 'Child at risk' (1.30), and 'No action possible' (1.22) (Tables 9 and 30). The ratio was highest for the lower ages and generally declined with increasing age.

Of substantiated cases the highest ratios involved neglect (1.22) and emotional abuse (1.20). Sexual abuse had the lowest ratio (1.09). Children aged less than one year (1.20) and those aged two years (1.19) showed the highest ratios during the year (Tables 8 and 29).

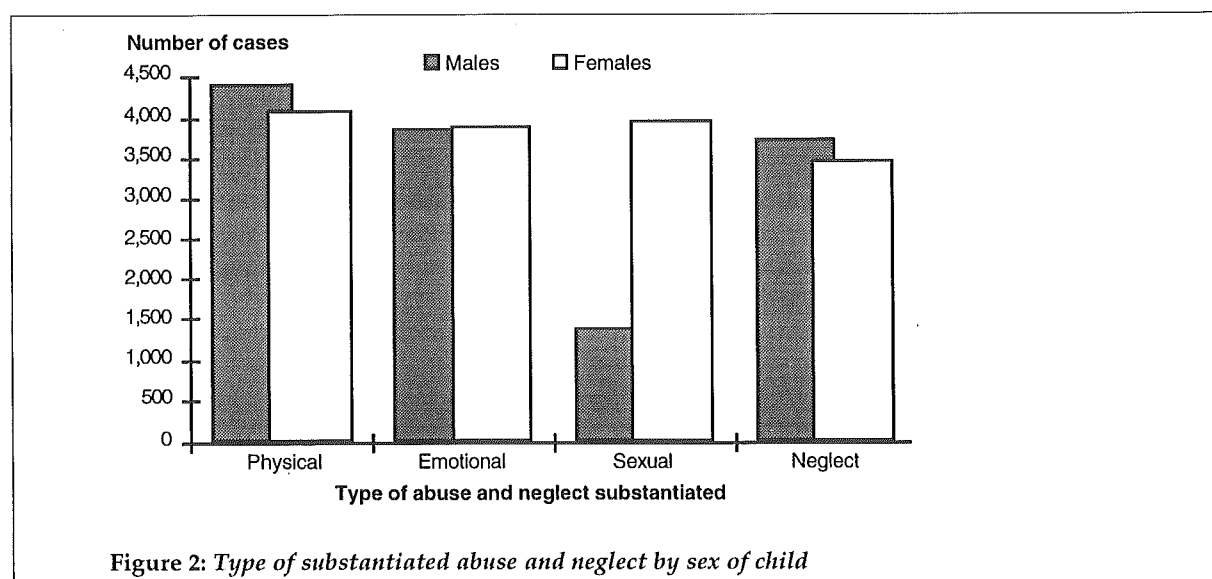
The overall ratio for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 1.72 cases per child, 46% higher than that for all children. The outcome categories with the highest rate of finalised cases to children were 'No abuse and neglect found' (1.83) and 'Child at risk' (1.79) (Table 18).

Of substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children the highest ratio involved neglect (1.79). Sexual abuse had the lowest ratio (1.30). Children with the highest ratio were those aged 6 to 12 months (2.19) (Table 17).

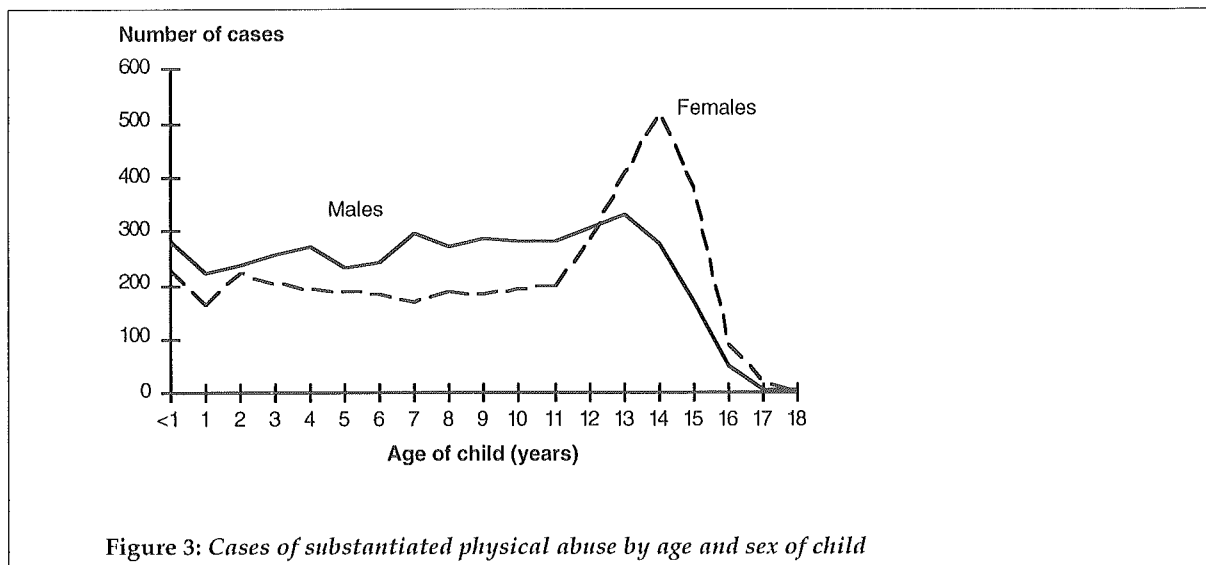
Patterns of abuse and neglect by sex, age and type

More boys than girls were the subject of reports of abuse and neglect at the lower ages, while girls were in the majority in the older ages (Table 9).

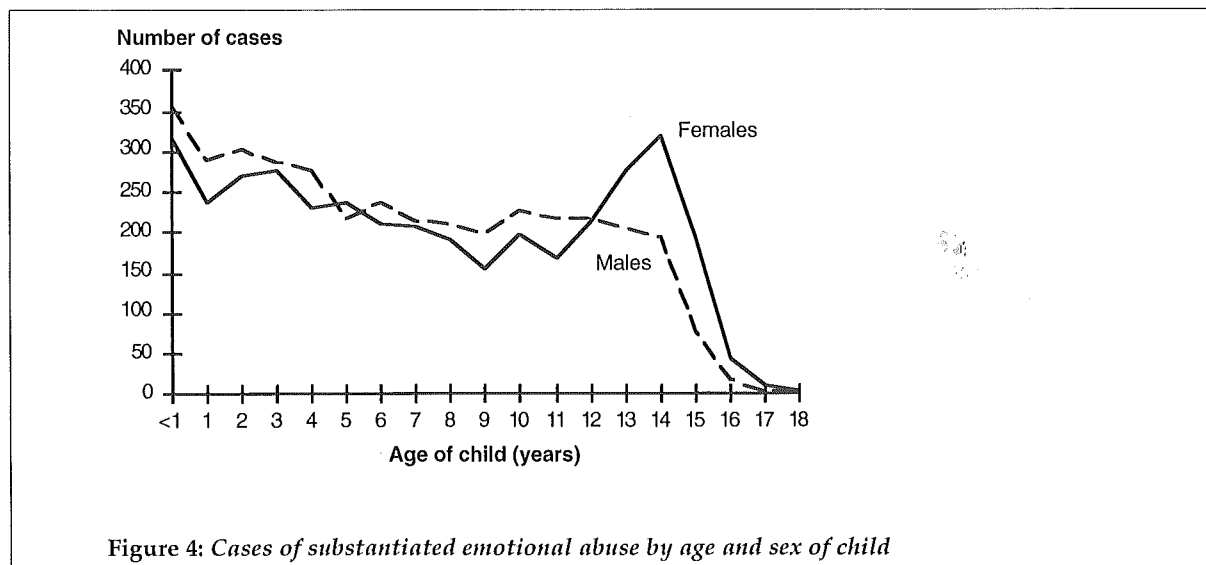
Children of both sexes were represented almost equally in substantiated cases of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect, while females were the victims in the majority (74%) of sexual abuse cases (Figure 2; Table 8).



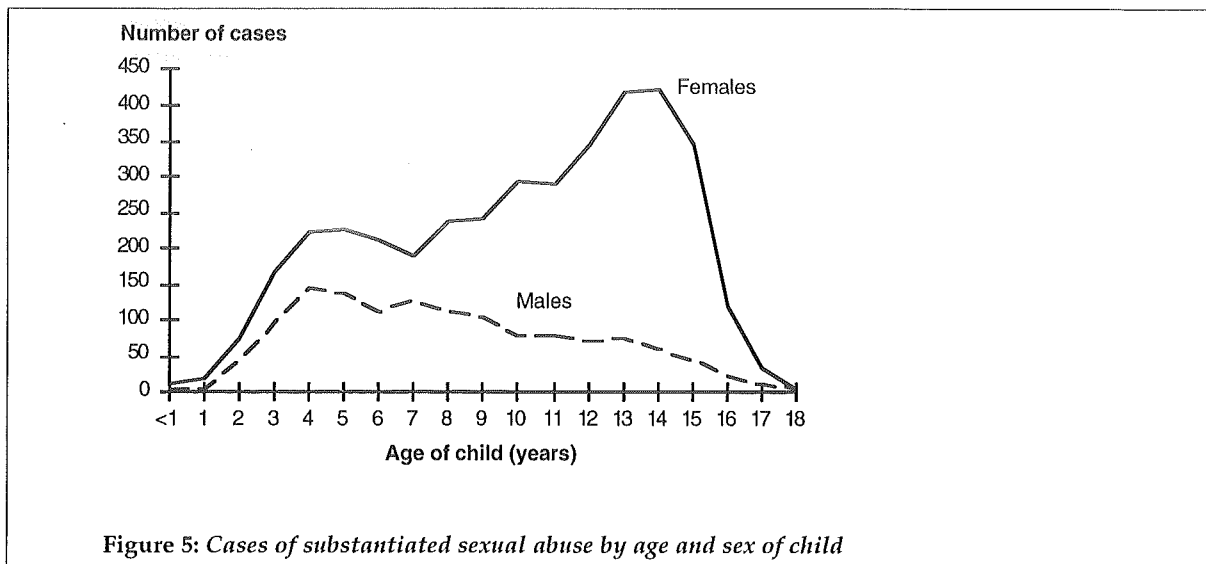
For substantiated cases of physical abuse, there were more boys than girls at each age for pre-teenage children. However, more teenage girls than teenage boys were the subjects of substantiated cases of physical abuse, with the highest number of cases involving girls aged 13 and 14 years (Figure 3; Table 8).



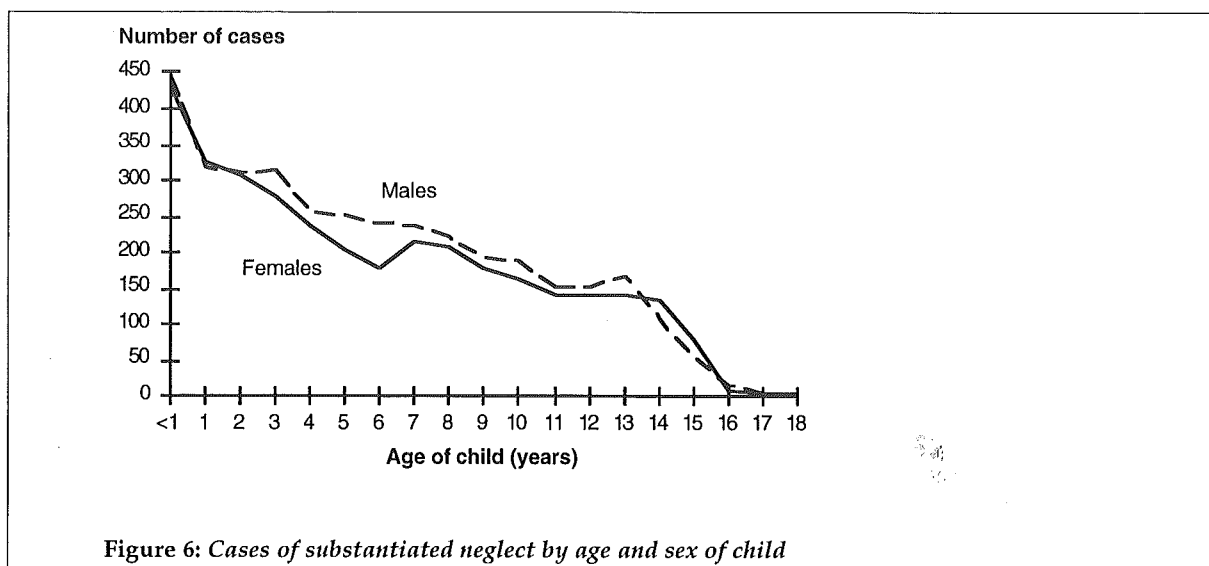
Substantiated cases of emotional abuse were highest among the youngest age group and showed a steady decline with age, except for a sharp increase in the number of cases involving girls in the early teenage years (Figure 4; Table 8).



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 5; Table 8).



Substantiated cases of neglect were highest at the youngest ages, and generally declined with age (Figure 6; Table 8).



Rates by age group and State and Territory

In 1993–94, 5.7 per 1,000 children¹ Australia-wide were involved in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. Significant variation across the States and Territories underlies this national figure, with New South Wales having the highest rate (8.6 per 1,000 children) and Tasmania (3.0 per 1,000 children) and Queensland (3.1 per 1,000 children) having the lowest rates (Table 2). Note that in Queensland, cases investigated by the police are not included in this collection—see Section 2, ‘Scope and coverage’.

Table 2 sets out the rates of children involved in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children by age group and by State and Territory.

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

Table 2: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by State and Territory, 1993–94

State/Territory	Age				Total ^(a)
	0–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–16 years	
New South Wales	8.6	8.5	9.5	4.8	8.6
Victoria	5.7	4.4	5.1	2.7	4.8
Queensland	3.4	2.8	3.5	1.6	3.1
Western Australia	4.3	3.9	3.6	1.9	3.7
South Australia	4.5	5.9	5.3	3.6	5.4
Tasmania	1.9	2.4	3.2	3.3	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	7.3	5.6	5.2	2.0	5.7
Northern Territory	7.5	5.5	7.8	1.8	6.5
Australia	6.0	5.5	6.1	3.2	5.7

(a) Includes 527 children of unknown age but excludes 117 children aged over 16 years.

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 1994 (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995 Catalogue No. 3201.0), multiplied by 1,000.

The rate of physical abuse was highest for children aged 13 and 14 years (2.6 and 2.9 children per 1,000 respectively) as was the rate of sexual abuse (1.6 and 1.8 children per 1,000 respectively). The rates of emotional abuse and neglect were highest for children aged under one year (2.2 and 2.8 children per 1,000) (Table 28).

The rate of substantiated abuse and neglect per 1,000 children aged 0–16 years has increased from 4.1 in 1990–91 to 5.7 in 1993–94. This increase is reflected in most States and Territories except Queensland and Tasmania. The increase was most marked in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 34).

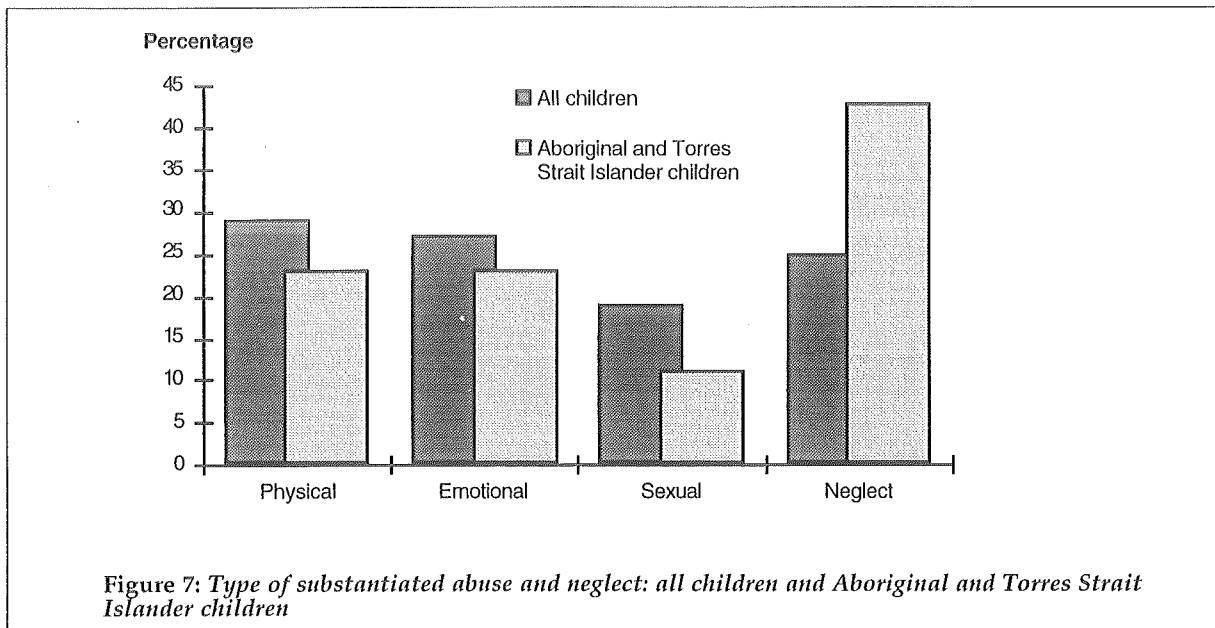
Abuse and neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Eight per cent of children in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, a much higher proportion than they represent in the Australian population aged 0–16 (3%)² (Table 29).

The type of substantiated cases for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children differed significantly from the national pattern, with neglect cases representing a much higher proportion (43%) of total substantiations than for all children (25%). This pattern was particularly evident in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia where neglect represented more than half of all substantiated cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children—more than 17 percentage points higher than for children generally in those states (Tables 13 and 16).

Sexual abuse cases involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represented a much lower proportion (11%) of substantiated cases than for all children (19%). This was particularly the case in the Australian Capital Territory (2% compared with 7% generally) and in South Australia (9% compared with 28%) (Figure 7; Tables 13 and 16).

² Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections were prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics according to assumptions agreed to by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.



Rates of abuse and neglect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (15.2 per 1,000 children 0–16 years) were much higher than for all children (5.7). The difference was greatest for neglect, with the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being over four times the rate for all children.

Table 3: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by type of abuse and neglect, 1993–94

Children	Type of abuse or neglect				Total
	Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Neglect	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	3.6	3.8	2.0	5.8	15.2
All children	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.4	5.7

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 1994, multiplied by 1,000. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995 Catalogue No. 3201.0; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections were prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics according to assumptions agreed to by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

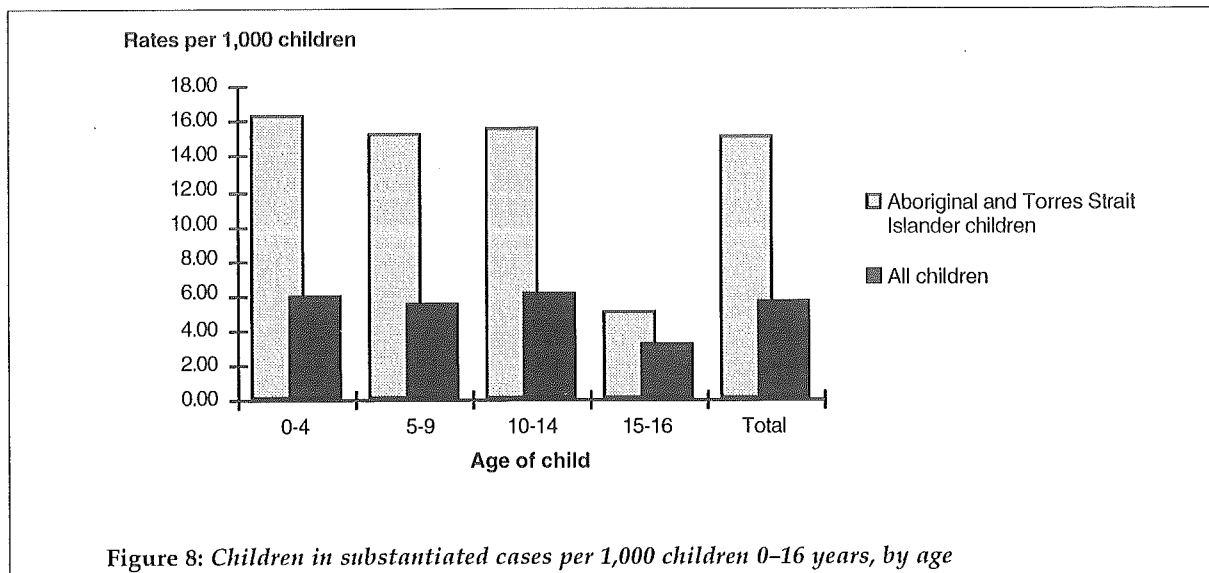
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–4 years had the highest rate of abuse and neglect in the population, with a rate of 16.3 per 1,000 children. This compares with a rate of 6.0 for all children aged 0–4 years. The 0–4 years age group showed the greatest difference in rate between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and all children.

The rates of abuse and neglect for all children were fairly evenly spread in the lowest three age groups. The rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was highest in the 0–4 years category and very much lower (5.0) in the 15–16 years group.

Table 4: Rates of children 0–16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by age group, 1993–94

Children	Age				Total
	0–4 years	5–9 years	10–14 years	15–16 years	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	16.3	15.4	15.6	5.0	15.2
All children	6.0	5.5	6.1	3.2	5.7

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 1994, multiplied by 1,000. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995 Catalogue No. 3201.0; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections were prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics according to assumptions agreed to by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).



Relationship of maltreater to child

The data are seriously affected by having 39% of records not coded to show the relationship of the maltreater to the child. When these cases are excluded, natural parents (including a few but unknown number of adoptive parents) were identified as being responsible for the abuse or neglect in 72% of substantiated cases, and step-parents, de facto parents, foster parents and guardians were identified in 12% of cases. Siblings and other relatives were identified as being responsible in 7%, and friends or neighbours were identified in 6% of substantiated cases. In 4% of cases the person was someone other than a parent or guardian, sibling, other relative or friend or neighbour (most of these were cases of sexual abuse).

Data on the relationship of the maltreater to the child are also affected by differences in scope and coverage between States and Territories (see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage').

Data for New South Wales are seriously affected by having 55% of cases not coded to show the relationship of the maltreater to the child (Table 20). When these cases are excluded³ from the New South Wales data, a natural parent is believed responsible in 67% of cases, a step parent in 4% and a defacto parent in 4%. Friends and neighbours and persons classified as 'Other' were responsible for 10% and 7% respectively (most of these are cases of sexual abuse) (Table 20).

³ Of the New South Wales cases where the relationship of the maltreater to the child is not specified (physical abuse, 1,938; emotional abuse, 3,004 and neglect, 1,834), the maltreater is most likely a parent. Of the cases of sexual abuse (1,588) where the relationship of the maltreater to the child is not specified, the maltreater is most likely a friend/neighbour or natural parent.

Table 5: *Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child by type of abuse or neglect, 1993–94*

Relationship of maltreater ^(a) to child	Type of abuse or neglect				Total ^(b)
	Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Neglect	
Natural/adoptive parent	3,798	3,350	583	3,978	11,711
Step-parent	481	193	231	59	964
De facto parent	439	165	170	46	820
Foster parent	27	12	10	14	63
Guardian	26	6	2	21	55
Sibling	92	17	178	18	305
Other relative	154	47	478	97	776
Friend/neighbour	85	27	794	27	933
Other	94	28	427	33	582
Total	5,196	3,845	2,873	4,293	16,209

(a) The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

(b) Total includes two cases involving Natural/adoptive parents, where the type of abuse or neglect is not known.

Note: This table excludes cases where details of the relationship of maltreater to child are not available. All cases from South Australia are excluded on this basis. A further 10,425 cases are excluded, 8,370 of which are from NSW [physical abuse: 1,938; emotional abuse: 3,004; sexual abuse: 1,588; neglect: 1,834 and six cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known].

Queensland has the highest percentage of substantiated cases involving parents—a natural parent was believed responsible in 77% of cases, a step-parent in 9% and a de facto parent in 8%. These figures are influenced by the exclusion in Queensland of cases of abuse (mainly sexual abuse) involving persons living outside the child's home (see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage') (Table 20).

Western Australia showed the highest proportion of cases where the relationship of the maltreater was classified as 'Other relatives' (6%).

Tasmania has by far the highest percentage of substantiated cases where the person believed responsible was a friend or neighbour (15%) and one of the lowest percentages of cases where a parent was believed responsible (35%) (Table 20). This can be at least partly explained by the unavailability of data on the majority of neglect cases in Tasmania—see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage'. Neglect cases show a relatively high proportion of cases where a parent was responsible, and a low proportion of cases where a friend or neighbour was responsible (Table 5).

The Northern Territory showed the highest proportion of cases where the relationship of the maltreater was classified as 'Other' (5%), which includes cases where the maltreater was related by Aboriginal kinship (Table 20).

Source of abuse and neglect reports

Table 6: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome, 1993-94

Source of report	Substantiated		Child at risk ^(a)		No abuse or neglect found		No action possible		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	766	3	92	4	404	1	59	2	1,321	2
Parent/guardian	4,068	14	351	13	4,447	14	301	12	9,167	14
Sibling	93	—	33	1	159	1	18	1	303	—
Other relative	1,976	7	300	12	3,006	10	313	12	5,595	9
Friend/neighbour	3,004	10	448	17	6,163	20	494	19	10,109	16
Medical practitioner	977	3	95	4	829	3	104	4	2,005	3
Other health	826	3	20	1	598	2	39	2	1,483	2
Hospital/health centre	1,422	5	132	5	1,007	3	91	4	2,652	4
Social worker	2,414	8	113	4	1,443	5	205	8	4,175	6
School personnel	4,162	14	226	9	3,373	11	154	6	7,915	12
Day care	282	1	28	1	415	1	13	1	738	1
Police	4,529	16	241	9	2,932	9	254	10	7,956	12
Department officer	890	3	161	6	873	3	66	3	1,990	3
Non-govt organisation	974	3	77	3	825	3	96	4	1,972	3
Anonymous	753	3	69	3	2,097	7	162	6	3,081	5
Other	1,068	4	198	8	1,537	5	174	7	2,977	5
Not stated	507	2	21	1	763	2	57	2	1,348	2
Total	28,711	100	2,605	100	30,871	100	2,600	100	64,787	100

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

The highest number of reports of finalised cases of child abuse and neglect came from friends and neighbours (16%), followed by parents or guardians (14%), school personnel and the police (each 12%). Friends and neighbours were clearly the highest reporters of cases assessed as 'Child at risk' (17% 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).

Reports of abuse and neglect from the subject child and from social workers had the highest rates of substantiation (each 58%), followed by the police (57%), health workers other than a medical practitioner⁴ (56%) and hospital and health centre staff (54%). Reports from anonymous persons (24%), friends and neighbours (30%) and siblings (31%) showed the lowest rates of substantiation. 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. Professionals, including medical and health staff, social workers and school personnel, had a very consistent substantiation rate ranging from 49% to 58% (Table 23).

If the rate at which cases were assessed as *either* substantiated *or* at risk is compared by source of report, the pattern is very similar. Sixty-five per cent of cases reported by the subject child were either substantiated or assessed as at risk, as were 61% of cases reported by social workers and 60% of cases reported by the police. Reports from anonymous sources (27%), friends and neighbours (34%) and other relatives (41%) had the lowest rates of assessment as either substantiated or at risk (Table 23).

The type of abuse and neglect identified in substantiated cases varied according to the source of the report. Of substantiated cases reported by the subject child, the highest percentage (49%) involved physical abuse as did 41% of cases reported by school personnel. Thirty-seven per cent of substantiated cases reported by non-government organisations involved emotional abuse. Twenty seven per cent of substantiated cases reported by parents

⁴ Includes nurses, paramedics, dentists, physiotherapists, pharmacists and infant health workers.

and guardians and by school personnel involved sexual abuse. Forty-two per cent of substantiated cases reported anonymously were for neglect as were 39% of cases reported by friends and neighbours (Table 24).

The major source of report varied between the States and Territories. Friends or neighbours were the largest single source of report in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. In New South Wales, friends or neighbours and parents or guardians were each the source of report for 15% of finalised cases. Parents and guardians were also the highest reporters in the Australian Capital Territory (16%). In Victoria, the police were the largest single source of report (19%), while in South Australia school personnel were the highest reporters (25%). In Tasmania, department officers were the source of 23% of finalised cases (Table 25).

Of substantiated cases of physical abuse, medical practitioners reported boys and girls at a ratio of three boys to every two girls, and a slight majority of reports from parents and guardians and other relatives related to boys. A slight majority of reports by school personnel and the subject child related to girls (Table 21).

While only 26% of substantiated cases of sexual abuse involved boys, 33% of substantiated sexual abuse cases reported by a parent or guardian related to boys. Of substantiated cases of sexual abuse reported by the subject child, 88% were from girls (Table 21).

Substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect—action causing harm/type of injury or harm sustained

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

The actions causing the injury or harm, and the extent of injury or harm attributed to the different categories of abuse and neglect cases vary considerably.

New South Wales

In New South Wales child abuse and neglect cases are classified according to the 'Primary actual abuse'. The classification of injury or harm data is a mixture of items which describe actions responsible for injury or harm to the child, and resulting identifiable injury or harm sustained by the child. Almost all of the physical abuse categories are types of injuries (burns, cuts, bruising etc.), although there are some 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 24% of substantiated cases of physical abuse, the type of harm sustained was bruising (11% facial or head bruising and 13% other significant bruising), with a further 38% being recorded as 'Other physical'. In cases of substantiated emotional abuse, 25% of cases were attributed to the parent's emotional state threatening the child, and another 25% to the parent's alcohol or drug use causing emotional harm to the child. In 43% of substantiated sexual abuse cases the primary abuse was sexual fondling, with a further 20% of cases involving vaginal or anal penetration. In 42% of substantiated neglect cases the child was left without adequate supervision (Table 35).

Queensland

In Queensland, as in New South Wales, the categories used are a mixture of items describing actions causing the injury or harm, and items which describe the type of injury or harm sustained by the child. Queensland also has an 'Other' category in each type of abuse and neglect, but unlike New South Wales and Western Australia, Queensland also 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 44% of substantiated physical abuse cases the major injury or harm sustained was bruising, while a further 42% of cases were classified as 'Other physical'. Five per cent of physical abuse cases were cuts or abrasions, and 3% of cases resulted in burns and fractures other than skull fractures. In substantiated emotional abuse cases, scapegoating or rejection was recorded as the major harm sustained in 20% of cases, and severe verbal abuse in a further 18%. Fifty-eight per cent of cases were coded as 'Other emotional'. The type of abuse in 59% of substantiated sexual abuse cases was recorded as 'Other sexual contact'. In 18% of cases there was penetration with violence or coercion. Thirty-one per cent of substantiated neglect cases involved the child being left unattended, and in a further 18% the child's physical needs were neglected. Twenty-eight per cent of neglect cases were coded as 'Other neglect' (Table 36).

Western Australia

In contrast to the other two States, Western Australia has separate data items for 'Actions causing injury and harm' and 'Resulting injury or harm'. Although Western Australia uses the 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 54% of substantiated cases of physical abuse the major type of harm consisted of cuts or bruises, with a further 4% of cases involving skull fractures/brain damage, other fractures, scalds or burns. In 29% of cases no identifiable injury was recorded. Emotional trauma was cited in 42% of substantiated emotional abuse cases, and 49% had 'No identifiable injury'. Emotional trauma was cited in 31% of substantiated sexual abuse cases, with a further 48% having 'No identifiable injury'. Twenty per cent of substantiated neglect cases were recorded as 'Other neglect', while 64% had no identifiable injury (Table 37).

5 Detailed tables

Assessment outcomes

Table 7: Cases: assessment outcome of case by State and Territory, 1993-94

Outcome	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld ^(b)	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Finalised									
Substantiated	15,128	5,253	3,127	1,830	2,077	424	495	377	28,711
Child at risk ^(c)	..	..	1,336	943	..	154	172	..	2,605
No abuse or neglect found	12,015	7,360	3,580	2,890	3,308	903	445	370	30,871
No action possible	956	505	546	390	144	–	35	24	2,600
Total finalised	28,099	13,118	8,589	6,053	5,529	1,481	1,147	771	64,787
Not finalised	4,136	2,026	2,083	556	629	158	61	–	9,649
Total cases	32,235	15,144	10,672	6,609	6,158	1,639	1,208	771	74,436
	Percentage								
Finalised									
Substantiated	46.9	34.7	29.3	27.7	33.7	25.9	41.0	48.9	38.6
Child at risk ^(c)	..	..	12.5	14.3	..	9.4	14.2	..	3.5
No abuse or neglect found	37.3	48.6	33.5	43.7	53.7	55.1	36.8	48.0	41.5
No action possible	3.0	3.3	5.1	5.9	2.3	–	2.9	3.1	3.5
Total finalised	87.2	86.6	80.5	91.6	89.8	90.4	95.0	100.0	87.0
Not finalised	12.8	13.4	19.5	8.4	10.2	9.6	5.0	–	13.0
Total cases	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

- (a) The definition of 'Case' in Victoria is more restricted than that outlined in Section 6, 'Explanation of terms' (see 'Reporting procedures—Victoria' on page 6).
- (b) Excludes 428 cases of 'Protective advice' (see Section 2, 'Scope and coverage').
- (c) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

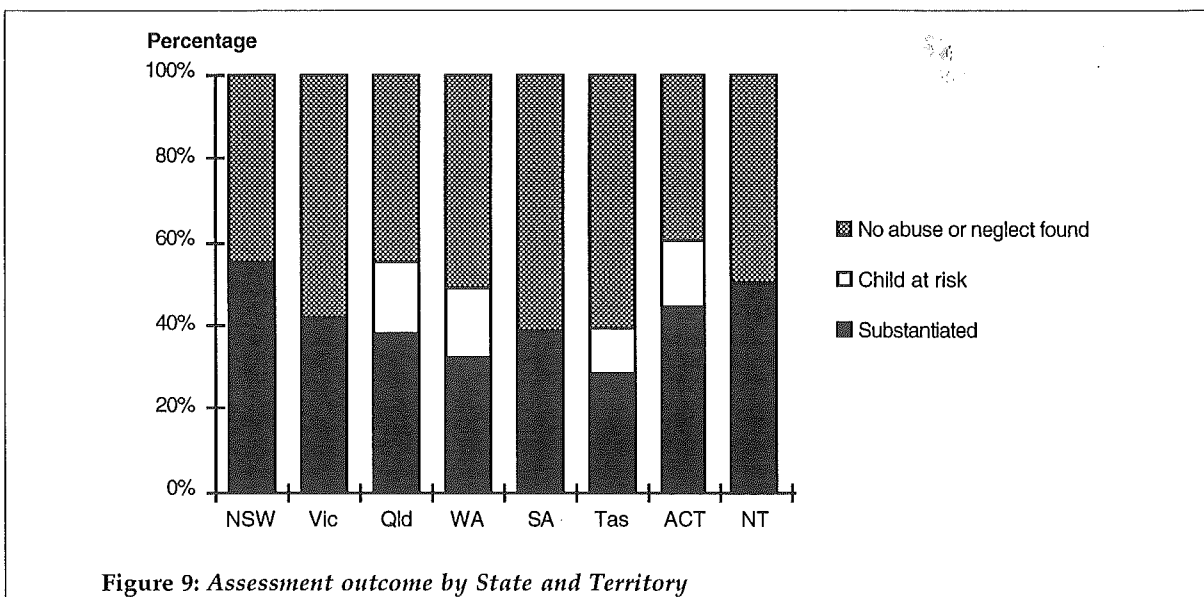


Figure 9: Assessment outcome by State and Territory

Table 8: Substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total ^(a)		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			M	F	P
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P			
Months															
Under 2	66	52	118	98	73	171	1	4	5	98	105	203	263	234	497
2 and under 6	106	82	188	123	123	246	3	6	9	145	133	279	377	344	722
6 and under 12	108	92	200	135	119	254	2	4	6	201	192	394	446	407	854
Years															
1	222	165	387	289	239	529	5	20	25	318	328	646	835	752	1,588
2	237	222	459	303	270	573	47	74	121	311	306	617	898	872	1,770
3	256	204	460	286	278	564	98	169	267	314	279	594	955	930	1,886
4	271	192	464	277	232	509	147	222	370	257	238	495	952	885	1,839
5	235	188	423	219	239	458	139	225	365	251	203	454	844	855	1,700
6	245	184	429	237	210	447	111	212	323	242	178	420	836	784	1,620
7	297	170	469	216	208	426	128	191	319	237	217	455	879	786	1,670
8	272	188	460	212	192	404	111	236	347	224	207	432	819	823	1,643
9	289	185	474	199	155	354	104	243	348	192	180	372	784	763	1,548
10	282	194	476	227	198	425	77	292	369	191	164	355	778	849	1,627
11	281	197	479	218	168	386	80	291	371	153	140	294	732	796	1,530
12	308	281	589	219	215	434	72	343	415	153	140	293	752	979	1,731
13	332	412	745	203	278	481	75	420	495	166	141	307	777	1,251	2,029
14	277	521	800	196	321	517	62	421	484	108	135	243	643	1,398	2,044
15	168	381	549	76	195	271	47	346	393	57	79	136	348	1,001	1,349
16	50	90	140	19	43	62	25	118	143	16	10	26	110	261	371
17	8	20	28	5	10	15	11	36	47	4	3	7	28	69	97
Adult	5	2	7	1	4	5	3	3	6	-	3	3	9	12	21
Not stated	80	70	150	68	95	163	39	93	132	60	70	130	247	328	575
Total	4,395	4,092	8,494	3,826	3,865	7,694	1,387	3,969	5,360	3,698	3,451	7,155	13,312	15,379	28,711

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include eight cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [age one year: one male case; age three years: one male case; age four years: one female case; age six years: one male case; age seven years: one male case; age ten years: one male and one female case; age 13 years: one male case].

Note: Table includes 20 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: seven cases; emotional abuse: three cases; sexual abuse: four cases; neglect: six cases].

Table 9: Finalised cases: age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk ^(a)			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Months															
Under 2	263	234	497	38	33	71	223	169	396	20	14	34	544	450	998
2 and under 6	377	344	722	39	41	80	370	333	706	39	22	62	825	740	1,570
6 and under 12	446	407	854	54	59	113	498	501	1,000	55	52	112	1,053	1,019	2,079
Years															
1	835	752	1,588	104	114	218	1,156	1,040	2,200	130	98	231	2,225	2,004	4,237
2	898	872	1,770	111	85	196	1,248	1,262	2,512	114	117	232	2,371	2,336	4,710
3	955	930	1,886	124	124	248	1,361	1,301	2,666	111	80	194	2,551	2,435	4,994
4	952	885	1,839	94	102	196	1,272	1,398	2,672	88	112	200	2,406	2,497	4,907
5	844	855	1,700	86	89	175	1,130	1,093	2,224	78	86	164	2,138	2,123	4,263
6	836	784	1,620	82	75	157	1,114	1,057	2,172	78	63	142	2,110	1,979	4,091
7	879	786	1,670	68	111	181	937	1,018	1,959	60	70	131	1,944	1,985	3,941
8	819	823	1,643	64	60	124	933	837	1,771	59	57	116	1,875	1,777	3,654
9	784	763	1,548	71	71	143	835	755	1,591	46	54	100	1,736	1,643	3,382
10	778	849	1,627	58	62	121	794	741	1,536	57	48	105	1,687	1,700	3,389
11	732	796	1,530	53	43	96	668	663	1,334	58	44	103	1,511	1,546	3,063
12	752	979	1,731	41	61	102	636	752	1,392	37	51	89	1,466	1,843	3,314
13	777	1,251	2,029	35	83	118	517	749	1,268	52	59	111	1,381	2,142	3,526
14	643	1,398	2,044	45	83	128	458	764	1,222	52	90	142	1,198	2,335	3,536
15	348	1,001	1,349	24	55	79	253	612	865	36	65	101	661	1,733	2,394
16	110	261	371	9	28	37	93	203	296	8	35	43	220	527	747
17	28	69	97	2	3	5	30	49	79	3	5	8	63	126	189
Adult	9	12	21	-	1	1	9	16	25	3	1	4	21	30	51
Not stated	247	328	575	8	8	16	460	524	985	92	84	176	807	944	1,752
Total	13,312	15,379	28,711	1,210	1,391	2,605	14,995	15,837	30,871	1,276	1,307	2,600	30,793	33,914	64,787

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: Table includes 80 cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: 20 cases; child at risk: four cases; no abuse or neglect found: 39 cases; no action possible: 17 cases].

Table 10: Finalised cases: assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1993-94

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number									
Substantiated	15,128	5,253	3,127	1,830	2,077	424	495	377	28,711
Child at risk ^(a)	..	..	1,336	943	..	154	172	..	2,605
No abuse and neglect found	12,015	7,360	3,580	2,890	3,308	903	445	370	30,871
No action possible	956	505	546	390	144	-	35	24	2,600
Total	28,099	13,118	8,589	6,053	5,529	1,481	1,147	771	64,787
Percentage									
Substantiated	54	40	36	30	38	29	43	49	44
Child at risk ^(a)	..	..	16	16	..	10	15	..	4
No abuse or neglect found	43	56	42	48	60	61	39	48	48
No action possible	3	4	6	6	3	-	3	3	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

Table 11: Finalised cases: age of child by State and Territory, 1993-94

Age of child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Number of children									
Under 5 years	9,654	5,068	3,599	2,449	1,559	394	459	313	23,495
5-9 years	8,399	3,722	2,465	1,927	1,818	435	349	216	19,331
10-14 years	7,587	3,479	2,152	1,392	1,348	409	236	225	16,828
15-17 years ^(a)	1,441	738	373	281	367	112	52	17	3,381
Not stated	1,018	111	-	4	437	131	51	-	1,752
Total	28,099	13,118	8,589	6,053	5,529	1,481	1,147	771	64,787
Percentage of children									
Under 5 years	34	39	42	40	28	27	40	41	36
5-9 years	30	28	29	32	33	29	30	28	30
10-14 years	27	27	25	23	24	28	21	29	26
15-17 years ^(a)	5	6	4	5	7	8	5	2	5
Not stated	4	1	-	-	8	9	4	-	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Includes 51 cases involving persons aged over 17 years.

Table 12: Substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect					
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Under 5 years	1,266	1,009	2,276	1,511	1,334	2,846	303	499	803	1,644	1,581	3,228	4,726	4,424	9,156
5-9 years	1,338	915	2,255	1,083	1,004	2,089	593	1,107	1,702	1,146	985	2,133	4,162	4,011	8,181
10-14 years	1,480	1,605	3,089	1,063	1,180	2,243	366	1,767	2,134	771	720	1,492	3,682	5,273	8,961
15-17 years ^(a)	231	493	724	101	252	353	86	503	589	77	95	172	495	1,343	1,838
Not stated	80	70	150	68	95	163	39	93	132	60	70	130	247	328	575
Total	4,395	4,092	8,494	3,826	3,865	7,694	1,387	3,969	5,360	3,698	3,451	7,155	13,312	15,379	28,711

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Includes 21 cases involving persons aged over 17 years.

- Notes: 1. Table includes eight cases where the type of abuse is not known [six males: two under 5 years, two 5-9 years and two 10-14 years; and two females: one under 5 years and one 10-14 years].
2. Table includes 20 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: one case under 5 years, two cases 5-9 years, four cases 10-14 years; emotional abuse: one case under 5 years, two cases 5-9 years; sexual abuse: one case under 5 years, two cases 5-9 years, one case 10-14 years; neglect: three cases under 5 years, two cases 5-9 years, one case 10-14 years].

Table 13: *Substantiated cases: type of abuse and neglect by State and Territory, 1993-94*

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Physical	3,770	1,591	1,256	626	803	208	126	114	8,494
Emotional	4,992	1,564	496	97	285	46	185	29	7,694
Sexual	3,302	586	209	442	572	154	37	58	5,360
Neglect	3,056	1,512	1,166	665	417	16	147	176	7,155
Total	15,128	5,253	3,127	1,830	2,077	424	495	377	28,711
	Percentage								
Physical	25	30	40	34	39	49	25	30	29
Emotional	33	30	16	5	14	11	37	8	27
Sexual	22	11	7	24	28	36	7	15	19
Neglect	20	29	37	36	20	4	30	47	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Total includes eight substantiated cases (six males and two females) from New South Wales, where the type of abuse or neglect is not known.

Abuse and neglect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Table 14: Finalised cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1993–94

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Substantiated	1,576	139	529	486	234	9	42	187	3,202
Child at risk ^(a)	..	..	184	208	..	3	23	..	418
No abuse or neglect found	970	148	380	444	207	20	23	124	2,316
No action possible	121	25	76	81	22	–	6	11	342
Total	2,667	312	1,169	1,219	463	32	94	322	6,278
	Percentage								
Substantiated	59	45	45	40	51	28	45	58	51
Child at risk ^(a)	..	..	16	17	..	9	24	..	7
No abuse or neglect found	36	47	33	36	45	63	24	39	37
No action possible	5	8	7	7	5	0	6	3	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

Table 15: Substantiated cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993–94

Age of child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect					
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Under 5 years	135	108	243	161	143	304	10	39	49	308	334	643	614	624	1,239
5–9 years	109	74	183	110	128	238	43	81	124	212	181	394	474	464	939
10–14 years	118	148	266	87	87	174	41	102	143	152	136	288	398	473	871
15–17 years ^(a)	4	38	42	3	6	9	2	21	23	9	6	15	18	71	89
Not stated	7	5	12	4	10	14	2	8	10	13	15	28	26	38	64
Total	373	373	746	365	374	739	98	251	349	694	672	1,368	1,530	1,670	3,202

(a) Includes one case involving a person aged over 17 years.

Note: Table includes two cases where the sex of the child is not known [neglect: one case under 5 years; one case 5–9 years].

Table 16: Substantiated cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by type of abuse and neglect by State and Territory, 1993–94

Type of abuse or neglect	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Number								
Physical	285	35	165	146	62	5	5	43	746
Emotional	567	39	51	5	47	2	23	5	739
Sexual	207	10	19	71	20	1	1	20	349
Neglect	517	55	294	264	105	1	13	119	1,368
Total	1,576	139	529	486	234	9	42	187	3,202
	Percentage								
Physical	18	25	31	30	26	56	12	23	23
Emotional	36	28	10	1	20	22	55	3	23
Sexual	13	7	4	15	9	11	2	11	11
Neglect	33	40	56	54	45	11	31	64	43
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 17: Substantiated cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect					
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Months															
Under 2	14	5	19	10	4	14	-	-	-	17	19	36	41	28	69
2 and under 6	8	10	18	12	19	31	-	-	-	39	41	80	59	70	129
6 and under 12	17	11	28	10	20	30	1	1	2	43	52	96	71	84	156
Years															
1	26	24	50	33	24	57	-	1	1	56	71	127	115	120	235
2	31	20	51	35	32	67	1	4	5	59	64	123	126	120	246
3	20	22	42	34	22	56	4	14	18	62	50	112	120	108	228
4	19	16	35	27	22	49	4	19	23	32	37	69	82	94	176
5	17	17	34	22	31	53	12	19	31	37	28	65	88	95	183
6	18	13	31	26	28	54	4	18	22	43	29	72	91	88	179
7	20	21	41	20	27	47	5	16	21	41	35	77	86	99	186
8	27	9	36	21	26	47	12	14	26	50	44	94	110	93	203
9	27	14	41	21	16	37	10	14	24	41	45	86	99	89	188
10	29	15	44	23	19	42	9	21	30	48	36	84	109	91	200
11	32	22	54	16	11	27	10	19	29	33	22	55	91	74	165
12	20	32	52	20	20	40	8	20	28	31	31	62	79	103	182
13	21	38	59	20	15	35	7	15	22	23	22	45	71	90	161
14	16	41	57	8	22	30	7	27	34	17	25	42	48	115	163
15	3	27	30	3	5	8	2	14	16	8	4	12	16	50	66
16	1	9	10	-	1	1	-	7	7	1	1	2	2	18	20
17	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Adult	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Not stated	7	5	12	4	10	14	2	8	10	13	15	28	26	38	64
Total	373	373	746	365	374	739	98	251	349	694	672	1,368	1,530	1,670	3,202

M=males F=females P=persons

Note: Table includes two cases where the sex of the child is not known [neglect: one case aged 6-12 months and one case aged 7 years].

Table 18: Finalised cases: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk ^(a)			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Months															
Under 2	41	28	69	7	6	13	26	27	53	2	2	4	76	63	139
2 and under 6	59	70	129	7	6	13	39	44	83	8	2	10	113	122	235
6 and under 12	71	84	156	15	14	29	42	47	89	9	8	17	137	153	291
Years															
1	115	120	235	20	21	41	95	112	207	26	25	51	256	278	534
2	126	120	246	13	14	27	99	73	172	12	11	23	250	218	468
3	120	108	228	21	18	39	102	74	176	11	9	20	254	209	463
4	82	94	176	12	16	28	89	96	185	7	15	22	190	221	411
5	88	95	183	11	10	21	86	70	156	7	10	17	192	185	377
6	91	88	179	12	13	25	81	74	155	11	14	25	195	189	384
7	86	99	186	16	15	31	77	85	162	6	8	15	185	207	394
8	110	93	203	7	12	19	66	67	133	6	12	18	189	184	373
9	99	89	188	12	9	21	63	54	117	6	7	13	180	159	339
10	109	91	200	14	12	26	72	62	134	9	11	20	204	176	380
11	91	74	165	8	6	14	38	62	100	4	8	12	141	150	291
12	79	103	182	9	7	16	31	62	93	5	5	11	124	177	302
13	71	90	161	6	14	20	38	45	83	7	6	13	122	155	277
14	48	115	163	5	16	21	33	47	80	2	12	14	88	190	278
15	16	50	66	-	7	7	8	28	36	4	5	9	28	90	118
16	2	18	20	2	5	7	5	9	14	2	3	5	11	35	46
17	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	5	5
Adult	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	2	3	5
Not stated	26	38	64	-	-	-	37	44	81	12	11	23	75	93	168
Total	1,530	1,670	3,202	197	221	418	1,129	1,187	2,316	156	184	342	3,012	3,262	6,278

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: Table includes four cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: one case aged 6-12 months, one case aged 7 years; no action possible: one case aged 7 years, one case aged 12 years].

Relationship of maltreater to child

Table 19: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child by assessment outcome and sex, 1993-94

Relationship of maltreater ^(a) to child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total ^(b)		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			M	F	P
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P			
Natural/adoptive parent	1,966	1,831	3,798	1,658	1,692	3,350	127	456	583	2,101	1,876	3,978	5,854	5,855	11,711
Step-parent	263	218	481	93	100	193	20	211	231	40	19	59	416	548	964
De facto parent	246	193	439	77	88	165	37	133	170	21	25	46	381	439	820
Foster parent	17	10	27	7	5	12	3	7	10	7	7	14	34	29	63
Guardian	18	8	26	5	1	6	1	1	2	8	13	21	32	23	55
Sibling	42	50	92	8	9	17	48	130	178	9	9	18	107	198	305
Other relative	78	76	154	24	23	47	103	375	478	48	49	97	253	523	776
Friend/neighbour	40	45	85	10	17	27	217	577	794	13	14	27	280	653	933
Other	55	39	94	16	12	28	113	314	427	19	14	33	203	379	582
Not stated	1,243	1,252	2,495	1,793	1,771	3,564	570	1,344	1,915	1,227	1,218	2,445	4,837	5,587	10,425
Total	3,968	3,722	7,691	3,691	3,718	7,409	1,239	3,548	4,788	3,493	3,244	6,738	12,397	14,234	26,634

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

(b) Total columns include eight cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [natural/adoptive parent: two male cases; not stated: four male and two female cases].

Notes: 1. Table excludes data for South Australia, which are not available.

2. Table includes three cases where the sex of the child is not known [natural/adoptive parent: one case of physical abuse, and one case of neglect; not stated: one case of sexual abuse].

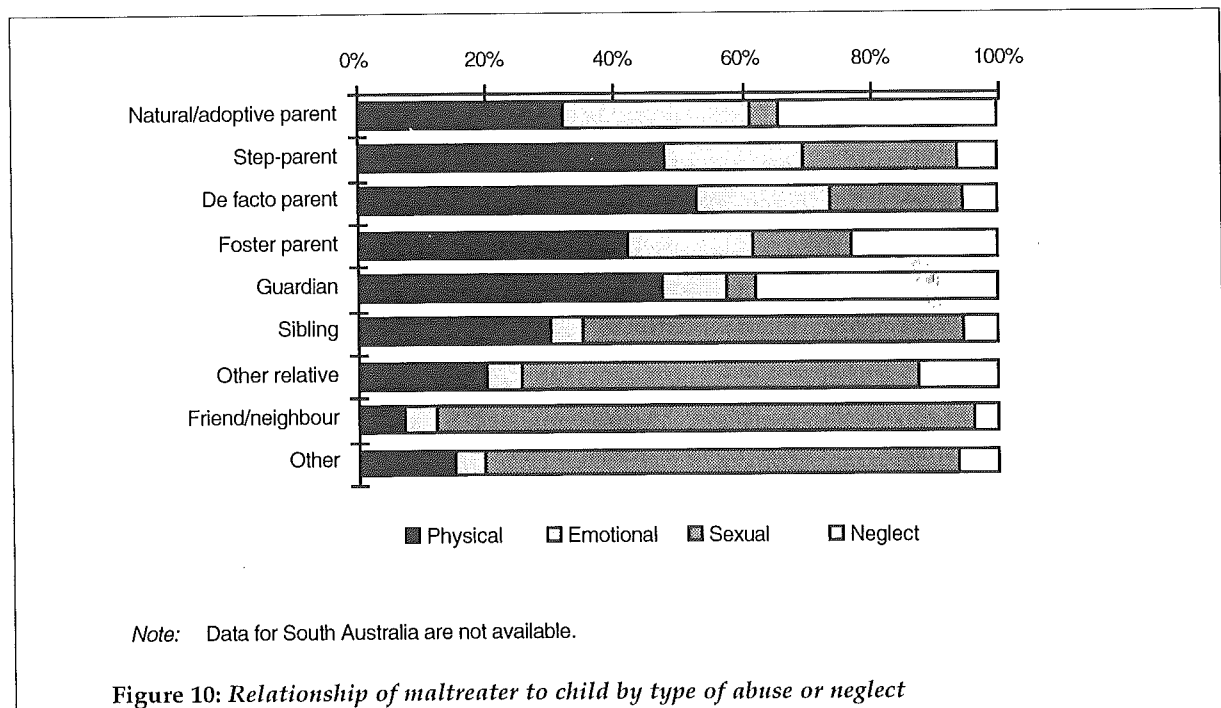


Figure 10: Relationship of maltreater to child by type of abuse or neglect

Table 20: Substantiated cases: relationship of maltreater to child by State and Territory, 1993-94

Relationship of maltreater ^(a) to child	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Tas	ACT	NT
Natural/adoptive parent	4,501	2,914	2,401	1,186	150	339	220
Step-parent	288	211	295	84	36	23	27
De facto parent	292	148	237	82	44	9	8
Foster parent	21	1	28	10	3	-	-
Guardian	11	1	15	28	-	-	-
Sibling	151	40	48	46	12	8	-
Other relative	380	176	72	103	18	9	18
Friend/neighbour	659	87	7	111	63	6	-
Other	455	19	24	56	3	5	20
Not stated	8,370	1,656	-	124	95	96	84
Total	15,128	5,253	3,127	1,830	424	495	377

(a) The maltreater is the person believed responsible for the abuse or neglect.

Note: The table excludes data for South Australia, which are not available.

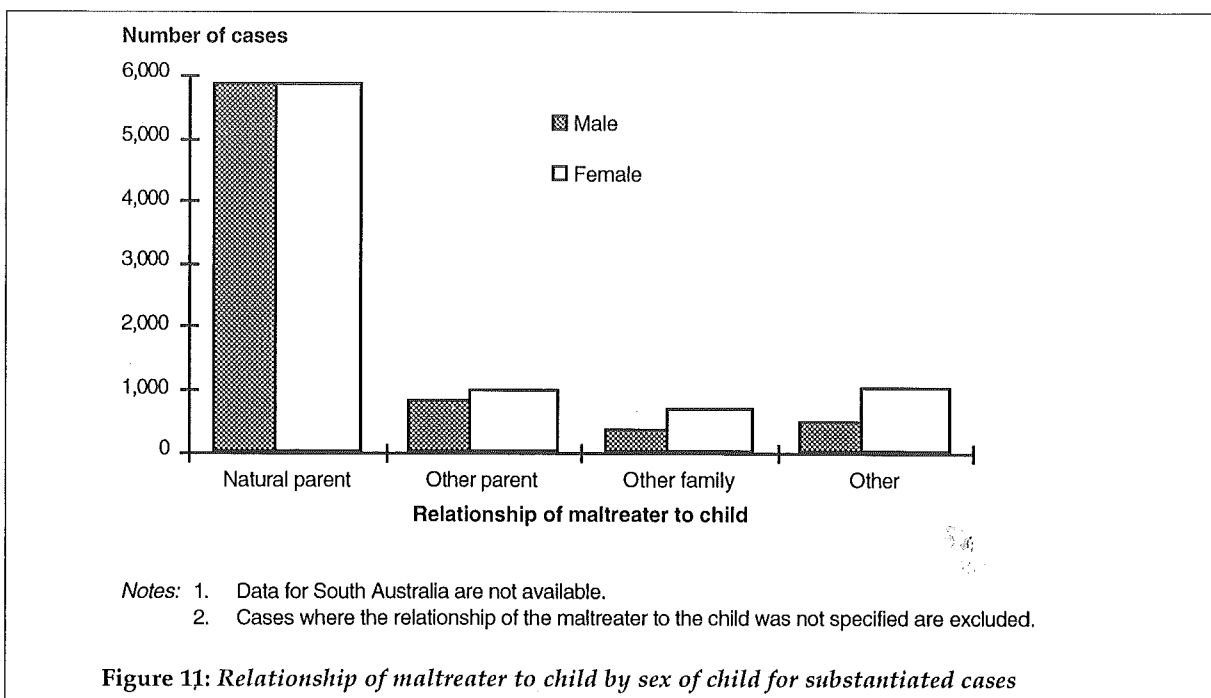


Figure 11: Relationship of maltreater to child by sex of child for substantiated cases

Source of abuse and neglect reports

Table 21: *Substantiated cases: source of report by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993-94*

Source of report	Type of abuse or neglect												Total ^(a)		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			M	F	P
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P			
Subject child	146	226	373	70	111	181	16	120	136	33	43	76	265	500	766
Parent/guardian	780	556	1,336	573	524	1,097	357	737	1,094	278	261	539	1,990	2,078	4,068
Sibling	10	19	29	10	11	21	4	13	17	16	10	26	40	53	93
Other relative	224	216	440	334	376	710	54	130	184	326	314	641	938	1,037	1,976
Friend/neighbour	366	383	749	422	433	856	70	162	234	593	568	1,163	1,453	1,546	3,004
Medical practitioner	212	145	357	141	121	262	48	134	183	77	98	175	478	498	977
Other health	127	100	227	148	143	291	32	63	95	109	104	213	416	410	826
Hospital/health centre	229	163	393	193	195	388	95	229	324	141	176	317	658	763	1,422
Social worker	296	302	598	363	380	743	123	384	507	286	280	566	1,068	1,346	2,414
School personnel	794	903	1,701	337	401	739	201	939	1,140	293	288	581	1,626	2,531	4,162
Day care	52	30	82	30	27	57	10	32	42	45	56	101	137	145	282
Police	517	536	1,053	623	545	1,169	231	661	893	795	618	1,414	2,166	2,360	4,529
Dept. officer	184	122	306	100	110	210	32	105	137	129	108	237	445	445	890
Non-govt organisation	129	128	257	182	178	360	38	65	103	133	121	254	482	492	974
Anonymous	89	64	153	118	104	222	15	45	60	165	151	316	388	365	753
Other	180	143	324	102	118	220	39	119	158	180	184	366	501	564	1,068
Not stated	60	56	116	80	88	168	22	31	53	99	71	170	261	246	507
Total	4,395	4,092	8,494	3,826	3,865	7,694	1,387	3,969	5,360	3,698	3,451	7,155	13,312	15,379	28,711

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include eight cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [parent/guardian: two male cases; other relative: one female case; friend/neighbour: two male cases; school personnel: one male case; not stated: one male and one female case].

Note: Table includes 20 cases where the sex of the child is not known [physical abuse: seven cases; emotional abuse: three cases; sexual abuse: four cases; neglect: six cases].

Table 22: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome and sex, 1993-94

Source of report	Substantiated			Child at risk ^(a)			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	265	500	766	32	60	92	153	250	404	17	42	59	467	852	1,321
Parent/guardian	1,990	2,078	4,068	167	182	351	2,157	2,290	4,447	154	147	301	4,468	4,697	9,167
Sibling	40	53	93	15	18	33	69	88	159	9	9	18	133	168	303
Other relative	938	1,037	1,976	143	157	300	1,459	1,543	3,006	145	168	313	2,685	2,905	5,595
Friend/neighbour	1,453	1,546	3,004	207	240	448	3,161	2,984	6,163	256	235	494	5,077	5,005	10,109
Medical practitioner	478	498	977	42	52	95	376	453	829	50	54	104	946	1,057	2,005
Other health	416	410	826	11	9	20	288	310	598	16	23	39	731	752	1,483
Hospital/health centre	658	763	1,422	68	64	132	476	530	1,007	40	47	91	1,242	1,404	2,652
Social worker	1,068	1,346	2,414	52	61	113	725	716	1,443	99	106	205	1,944	2,229	4,175
School personnel	1,626	2,531	4,162	107	119	226	1,535	1,834	3,373	69	84	154	3,337	4,568	7,915
Day care	137	145	282	13	15	28	207	208	415	8	5	13	365	373	738
Police	2,166	2,360	4,529	99	142	241	1,372	1,557	2,932	140	114	254	3,777	4,173	7,956
Dept. officer	445	445	890	82	79	161	410	461	873	34	31	66	971	1,016	1,990
Non-govt organisation	482	492	974	32	45	77	423	402	825	44	51	96	981	990	1,972
Anonymous	388	365	753	42	27	69	1,066	1,029	2,097	88	71	162	1,584	1,492	3,081
Other	501	564	1,068	89	109	198	745	792	1,537	81	90	174	1,416	1,555	2,977
Not stated	261	246	507	9	12	21	373	390	763	26	30	57	669	678	1,348
Total	13,312	15,379	28,711	1,210	1,391	2,605	14,995	15,837	30,871	1,276	1,307	2,600	30,793	33,914	64,787

M=males F=females P=persons.

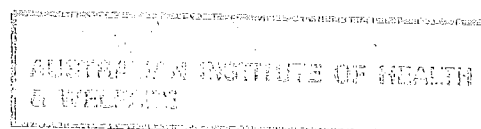
(a) New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Northern Territory do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category.

Note: Table includes 80 cases where the sex of the child is not known [substantiated: 20 cases; child at risk: four cases; no abuse or neglect found: 39 cases; no action possible: 17 cases].

Table 23: Finalised cases: source of report by assessment outcome, 1993-94

Source of report	Substantiated		Child at risk ^(a)		No abuse or neglect found		No action possible		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	766	58	92	7	404	31	59	4	1,321	100
Parent/guardian	4,068	44	351	4	4,447	49	301	3	9,167	100
Sibling	93	31	33	11	159	52	18	6	303	100
Other relative	1,976	35	300	5	3,006	54	313	6	5,595	100
Friend/neighbour	3,004	30	448	4	6,163	61	494	5	10,109	100
Medical practitioner	977	49	95	5	829	41	104	5	2,005	100
Other health	826	56	20	1	598	40	39	3	1,483	100
Hospital/health centre	1,422	54	132	5	1,007	38	91	3	2,652	100
Social worker	2,414	58	113	3	1,443	35	205	5	4,175	100
School personnel	4,162	53	226	3	3,373	43	154	2	7,915	100
Day care	282	38	28	4	415	56	13	2	738	100
Police	4,529	57	241	3	2,932	37	254	3	7,956	100
Department officer	890	45	161	8	873	44	66	3	1,990	100
Non-government organisation	974	49	77	4	825	42	96	5	1,972	100
Anonymous	753	24	69	2	2,097	68	162	5	3,081	100
Other	1,068	36	198	7	1,537	52	174	6	2,977	100
Not stated	507	38	21	2	763	57	57	4	1,348	100
Total	28,711	44	2,605	4	30,871	48	2,600	4	64,787	100

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



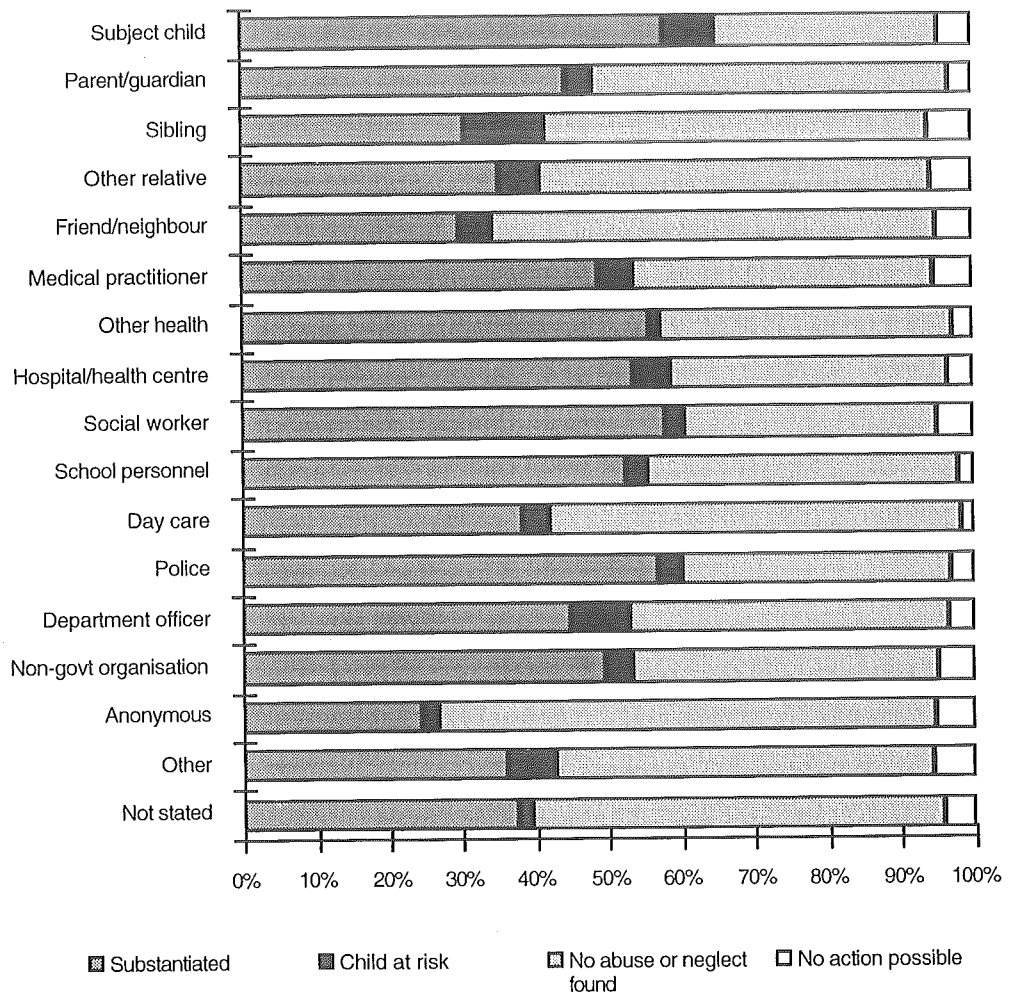


Figure 12: Source of report by assessment outcome for finalised cases

Table 24: Substantiated cases: source of report by type of abuse and neglect, 1993-94

Source of report	Type of abuse or neglect								Total ^(a)	
	Physical		Emotional		Sexual		Neglect		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	373	49	181	24	136	18	76	10	766	100
Parent/guardian	1,336	33	1,097	27	1,094	27	539	13	4,068	100
Sibling	29	31	21	23	17	18	26	28	93	100
Other relative	440	22	710	36	184	9	641	32	1,976	100
Friend/neighbour	749	25	856	28	234	8	1,163	39	3,004	100
Medical practitioner	357	37	262	27	183	19	175	18	977	100
Other health	227	27	291	35	95	12	213	26	826	100
Hospital/health centre	393	28	388	27	324	23	317	22	1,422	100
Social worker	598	25	743	31	507	21	566	23	2,414	100
School personnel	1,701	41	739	18	1,140	27	581	14	4,162	100
Day care	82	29	57	20	42	15	101	36	282	100
Police	1,053	23	1,169	26	893	20	1,414	31	4,529	100
Department officer	306	34	210	24	137	15	237	27	890	100
Non-government organisation	257	26	360	37	103	11	254	26	974	100
Anonymous	153	20	222	29	60	8	316	42	753	100
Other	324	30	220	21	158	15	366	34	1,068	100
Not stated	116	23	168	33	53	10	170	34	507	100
Total	8,494	30	7,694	27	5,360	19	7,155	25	28,711	100

(a) Total columns include eight cases where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [subject child: two cases; parent/guardian: one case; other relative: two cases; school personnel: one case; not stated: two cases].

Table 25: Finalised cases: source of report by State and Territory, 1993-94

Source of report	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Subject child	437	2	178	1	253	3	186	3	233	4	20	1	10	1	4	1
Parent/guardian	4,320	15	1,512	12	1,191	14	898	15	744	13	282	19	185	16	35	5
Sibling	-	-	120	1	92	1	37	1	36	1	9	1	5	-	4	1
Other relative	2,631	9	790	6	847	10	724	12	386	7	100	7	87	8	30	4
Friend/neighbour	4,167	15	1,595	12	2,041	24	1,034	17	772	14	177	12	176	15	147	19
Medical practitioner	884	3	397	3	325	4	133	2	166	3	50	3	37	3	13	2
Other health	721	3	560	4	102	1	-	-	38	1	27	2	11	1	24	3
Hospital/health centre	1,496	5	98	1	136	2	482	8	319	6	25	2	20	2	76	10
Social worker	2,668	9	412	3	695	8	-	-	229	4	14	1	43	4	114	15
School personnel	3,798	14	1,111	8	636	7	636	11	1,388	25	132	9	117	10	97	13
Day care	263	1	192	1	121	1	105	2	31	1	6	-	8	1	12	2
Police	3,025	11	2,501	19	1,068	12	478	8	648	12	76	5	51	4	109	14
Dept. officer	197	1	809	6	-	-	460	8	92	2	344	23	88	8	-	-
Non-govt organisation	667	2	889	7	47	1	189	3	-	-	17	1	141	12	22	3
Anonymous	1,733	6	535	4	395	5	187	3	112	2	39	3	61	5	19	2
Other	316	1	1,069	8	640	7	426	7	299	5	109	7	53	5	65	8
Not stated	776	3	350	3	-	-	78	1	36	1	54	4	54	5	-	-
Total	28,099	100	13,118	100	8,589	100	6,053	100	5,529	100	1,481	100	1,147	100	771	100

Children

Table 26: Children in finalised cases: assessment outcome by State and Territory, 1993-94

Outcome	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Substantiated									
Physical	3,222	1,562	1,100	582	717	201	119	106	7,609
Emotional	3,969	1,529	379	74	241	40	163	28	6,423
Sexual	3,019	574	187	410	543	109	33	57	4,932
Neglect	2,430	1,475	791	552	343	14	123	150	5,878
Total substantiated (a)	12,643	5,140	2,457	1,618	1,844	364	438	341	24,845
Child at risk(b)	..	..	1,016	726	..	135	120	..	1,997
No abuse or neglect found	9,230	7,049	3,059	2,270	2,681	807	346	328	25,770
No action possible	709	497	472	288	115	-	28	17	2,126
Total finalised	22,582	12,686	7,004	4,902	4,640	1,306	932	686	54,738

(a) Includes three children in New South Wales 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.

Table 27: Children in finalised cases: State and Territory by age group, 1993-94

State/Territory	Age				Total(a)
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-16 years	
New South Wales	7,447	6,758	6,172	1,163	22,582
Victoria	4,880	3,613	3,361	699	12,686
Queensland	2,837	2,013	1,810	334	7,004
Western Australia	1,906	1,556	1,186	217	4,902
South Australia	1,291	1,466	1,145	279	4,640
Tasmania	343	389	353	107	1,306
Australian Capital Territory	343	281	208	42	932
Northern Territory	265	196	209	15	686
Australia	19,312	16,272	14,444	2,856	54,738

(a) Total column includes 233 children aged 17 years or over and 1,621 children whose age is not known.

Table 28: 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 or neglect, 1993–94

Age of child	No. of children ^(a)	Type of abuse or neglect								Total ^(b)	
		Physical		Emotional		Sexual		Neglect			
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Years											
0	257,633	436	1.7	554	2.2	20	0.1	713	2.8	1,723	6.7
1	256,743	347	1.4	439	1.7	24	0.1	531	2.1	1,341	5.2
2	256,045	405	1.6	476	1.9	107	0.4	499	1.9	1,487	5.8
3	261,072	409	1.6	463	1.8	252	1.0	490	1.9	1,614	6.2
4	259,848	404	1.6	411	1.6	345	1.3	397	1.5	1,558	6.0
5	255,610	379	1.5	373	1.5	339	1.3	365	1.4	1,456	5.7
6	254,356	376	1.5	378	1.5	299	1.2	354	1.4	1,407	5.5
7	253,628	422	1.7	360	1.4	299	1.2	372	1.5	1,454	5.7
8	256,947	413	1.6	340	1.3	328	1.3	347	1.4	1,428	5.6
9	258,800	433	1.7	293	1.1	312	1.2	303	1.2	1,341	5.2
10	257,280	425	1.7	359	1.4	342	1.3	291	1.1	1,417	5.5
11	258,551	422	1.6	328	1.3	343	1.3	232	0.9	1,325	5.1
12	254,954	546	2.1	354	1.4	383	1.5	236	0.9	1,519	6.0
13	255,623	658	2.6	394	1.5	421	1.6	255	1.0	1,729	6.8
14	247,809	712	2.9	434	1.8	455	1.8	215	0.9	1,816	7.3
15	249,825	507	2.0	233	0.9	356	1.4	127	0.5	1,223	4.9
16	250,468	139	0.6	57	0.2	142	0.6	25	0.1	363	1.4
Not stated ^(c)		142		157		111		117		527	
Total	4,345,192	7,575	1.7	6,403	1.5	4,878	1.1	5,869	1.4	24,728	5.7

(a) Estimated resident population at 30 June 1994.

(b) Total column includes three children where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [age 4 years: one female case; age 7 years: one male case; age 13 years: one male case].

(c) Children of unknown age are included in this table as almost all would be aged 0–16 years.

Notes: 1. This table excludes 117 children aged 17 years or over.

2. Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children in substantiated cases by the estimated resident population aged 0–16 years at 30 June 1994, multiplied by 1,000. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995 Catalogue No. 3201.0),

Table 29: Children in substantiated cases: age of child by type of abuse and neglect and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Type of abuse or neglect												Total ^(a)		
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Neglect			M	F	P
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Months															
Under 2	62	46	108	89	67	156	1	4	5	83	95	178	235	212	447
2 and under 6	92	72	164	99	94	193	3	6	9	114	110	225	308	282	591
6 and under 12	90	74	164	111	94	205	2	4	6	159	150	310	362	322	685
Years															
1	202	145	347	246	192	439	5	19	24	258	273	531	711	629	1,341
2	222	183	405	255	221	476	40	67	107	271	228	499	788	699	1,487
3	230	179	409	227	236	463	92	159	252	263	226	490	812	800	1,614
4	238	165	404	223	188	411	136	209	345	204	193	397	801	756	1,558
5	212	167	379	179	194	373	126	212	339	204	161	365	721	734	1,456
6	220	156	376	204	174	378	104	195	299	206	148	354	734	673	1,407
7	274	146	422	181	177	360	123	176	299	186	185	372	765	684	1,454
8	243	170	413	184	156	340	102	226	328	187	159	347	716	711	1,428
9	266	167	433	164	129	293	93	218	312	158	145	303	681	659	1,341
10	253	172	425	190	169	359	73	269	342	153	138	291	669	748	1,417
11	249	172	422	188	140	328	72	271	343	121	110	232	630	693	1,325
12	282	264	546	184	170	354	65	318	383	121	115	236	652	867	1,519
13	297	360	658	162	232	394	66	355	421	140	115	255	666	1,062	1,729
14	253	457	712	171	263	434	59	395	455	95	120	215	578	1,235	1,816
15	158	349	507	67	166	233	46	310	356	55	72	127	326	897	1,223
16	49	90	139	18	39	57	23	119	142	15	10	25	105	258	363
17	7	20	27	5	11	16	11	37	48	4	2	6	27	70	97
Adult	5	2	7	1	3	4	3	3	6	-	3	3	9	11	20
Not stated	76	66	142	63	94	157	36	75	111	57	60	117	232	295	527
Total	3,980	3,622	7,609	3,211	3,209	6,423	1,281	3,647	4,932	3,054	2,818	5,878	11,528	13,297	24,845

M=males F=females P=persons.

(a) Total columns include three children where the type of abuse or neglect is not known [age 4 years: one female case; age 7 years: one male case; age 13 years: one male case].

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

Note: Table includes 20 children whose sex is not known [physical abuse: seven children; emotional abuse: three children; sexual abuse: four children; neglect: six children].

Table 30: Children in finalised cases: age of child by assessment outcome and sex, 1993-94

Age of child	Substantiated			Child at risk ^(a)			No abuse or neglect found			No action possible			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
Months															
Under 2	235	212	447	31	26	57	189	145	337	19	12	31	474	395	872
2 and under 6	308	282	591	25	31	56	301	272	575	29	18	48	663	603	1,270
6 and under 12	362	322	685	46	44	90	395	417	813	45	40	90	848	823	1,678
Years															
1	711	629	1,341	72	82	154	934	856	1,794	99	75	177	1,816	1,642	3,466
2	788	699	1,487	84	57	141	1,010	1,035	2,046	94	97	192	1,976	1,888	3,866
3	812	800	1,614	96	89	185	1,122	1,072	2,198	93	62	158	2,123	2,023	4,155
4	801	756	1,558	61	77	138	1,036	1,106	2,143	70	96	166	1,968	2,035	4,005
5	721	734	1,456	61	64	125	919	894	1,814	66	71	137	1,767	1,763	3,532
6	734	673	1,407	56	55	111	896	894	1,790	62	50	113	1,748	1,672	3,421
7	765	684	1,454	52	91	145	777	854	1,634	56	51	108	1,650	1,680	3,341
8	716	711	1,428	51	48	99	767	701	1,469	47	47	94	1,581	1,507	3,090
9	681	659	1,341	53	58	112	706	650	1,357	36	42	78	1,476	1,409	2,888
10	669	748	1,417	46	54	101	673	648	1,322	44	40	84	1,432	1,490	2,924
11	630	693	1,325	41	33	74	559	561	1,120	47	33	81	1,277	1,320	2,600
12	652	867	1,519	34	54	88	537	637	1,177	29	45	75	1,252	1,603	2,859
13	666	1,062	1,729	30	69	99	443	636	1,081	41	42	83	1,180	1,809	2,992
14	578	1,235	1,816	35	63	98	399	637	1,036	43	76	119	1,055	2,011	3,069
15	326	897	1,223	24	47	71	236	536	772	33	51	84	619	1,531	2,150
16	105	258	363	8	25	33	85	187	272	7	31	38	205	501	706
17	27	70	97	2	3	5	29	46	75	3	5	8	61	124	185
Adult	9	11	20	-	1	1	8	15	23	3	1	4	20	28	48
Not stated	232	295	527	6	8	14	426	495	922	79	79	158	743	877	1,621
Total	11,528	13,297	24,845	914	1,079	1,997	12,447	13,294	25,770	1,045	1,064	2,126	25,934	28,734	54,738

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: Table includes 70 children whose sex is not known [substantiated: 20 children; child at risk: four children; no abuse or neglect found: 29 children; no action possible: 17 children].

Change over time

Table 31: Reported cases (warranting investigation): State and Territory, 1987-88 to 1993-94

Year	NSW	Vic ^(a)	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

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

Table 32: Cases substantiated and at risk: State and Territory, 1987-88 to 1993-94

Year	NSW	Vic ^(a)	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	333	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

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

Table 33: Reported cases: assessment outcome, 1987-88 to 1993-94

Year	Finalised					Total finalised	Not finalised	Total
	Substantiated	Child at risk ^(a)	No maltreatment	No action possible	Total			
1987-88 ^(b)	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 ^(c)	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	

(a) New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia do not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category. The Northern Territory did not assign children to the 'Child at risk' category in 1993-94.

(b) Data for Western Australia were not available.

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

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

Table 34: Rates of children 0-16 years in substantiated cases per 1,000 children by State and Territory, 1990-91 to 1993-94

Year	NSW	Vic (a)	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1990-91	6.5	2.2	3.8	2.5	3.2	6.3	2.4	4.1	4.1
1991-92	6.9	1.9	3.2	2.8	2.9	4.4	3.2	4.4	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

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

- 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 1994 multiplied by 1,000. (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995 Catalogue No. 3201.0)
2. Table includes children of unknown age as almost all would be aged 0-16 years.

Injury or harm sustained

Table 35: *Substantiated cases: primary actual abuse, New South Wales, 1993-94*

Primary actual abuse	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
Physical abuse		
Facial/head bruising	414	11
Other significant bruising	487	13
Lacerations/welts	92	2
Cuts/abrasions	63	2
Burns/scalds	39	1
Dislocations/sprains/twisting	6	-
Skull fractures	9	-
Other fractures	30	1
Intentional/abusive administration of drugs & alcohol	29	1
Death of child (non accidental)	5	-
Death of sibling (non accidental)	5	-
Threats to physically harm child	183	5
Request for assistance by parent/child/care giver	793	21
Other physical	1,422	38
Not stated	193	5
<i>Total physical</i>	<i>3,770</i>	<i>100</i>
Emotional abuse		
Severe verbal abuse	272	5
Continual scapegoating	56	1
Continual rejection	99	2
Child's behaviour to self/others indicates abuse	569	11
Parent's emotional state threatens child	1,226	25
Parent's psychological disorder/developmental delay leads to emotional harm	278	6
Parent's alcohol/drug abuse leads to emotional harm	1,252	25
Other emotional	950	19
Not stated	290	6
<i>Total emotional</i>	<i>4,992</i>	<i>100</i>
Sexual abuse		
Genital exposure / voyeurism	100	3
Sexual fondling	1,416	43
Oral sexual behaviour	176	5
Vaginal/anal penetration	667	20
Threat of sexual abuse	60	2
Child's inappropriate sexual behaviour indicates abuse	124	4
Other sexual	627	19
Not stated	132	4
<i>Total sexual</i>	<i>3,302</i>	<i>100</i>
Neglect		
No abuse	420	14
Failure to provide food or shelter	195	6
Failure to protect child's health	93	3
Failure to provide medical care or medical/nursing aid	103	3
Left without adequate supervision	1,284	42
Other neglect	785	26
Not stated	176	6
<i>Total neglect</i>	<i>3,056</i>	<i>100</i>
Type of abuse not stated	8	-
Total cases substantiated	15,128	

Table 36: *Substantiated cases: most serious type of abuse or neglect, Queensland, 1993-94*

Most serious type of abuse or neglect	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
Physical		
Bruising	551	44
Cuts/abrasions	69	5
Burns	18	1
Skull fractures	6	-
Other fractures	22	2
Internal injuries	3	-
Alcohol/drug administration	12	1
Other physical	533	42
At risk of physical abuse	42	3
<i>Total physical</i>	<i>1,256</i>	<i>100</i>
Emotional abuse		
Severe verbal abuse	88	18
Scapegoating/rejection	101	20
Chronic emotional deprivation	16	3
Other emotional	287	58
At risk of emotional abuse	4	1
<i>Total emotional</i>	<i>496</i>	<i>100</i>
Sexual abuse		
Penetration with violence/coercion	37	18
Penetration without violence	25	12
Other sexual contact	123	59
Other sexual	21	10
At risk of sexual abuse	3	1
<i>Total sexual</i>	<i>209</i>	<i>100</i>
Neglect		
Neglect of physical needs	215	18
Inadequate living conditions	104	9
Left unattended	356	31
Abandoned	90	8
Neglect of health care	51	4
Neglect of education	11	1
Other neglect	325	28
At risk of being neglected	14	1
<i>Total neglect</i>	<i>1,166</i>	<i>100</i>
Total cases substantiated	3,127	

Table 37: *Substantiated cases: type of injury or harm, Western Australia, 1993-94*

Type of injury or harm	Cases substantiated	
	No.	%
Physical		
Cuts/bruises etc.	335	54
Fractured skull, brain damage	8	1
No identifiable injury	179	29
Scald, burn, fracture	21	3
Emotional trauma	41	7
Death	-	-
Other physical	42	7
<i>Total physical</i>	626	100
Emotional abuse		
Emotional trauma	41	42
No identifiable injury	48	49
Other emotional	8	8
<i>Total emotional</i>	97	100
Sexual abuse		
Anal/vagina trauma	39	9
Cuts/bruises etc.	4	1
Emotional trauma	136	31
No identifiable injury	212	48
Other sexual	51	12
<i>Total sexual</i>	442	100
Neglect		
Avoidable illness	38	6
Cuts/bruises etc.	3	-
Emotional trauma	28	4
Impaired development	30	5
No identifiable injury	428	64
Scald, burn, fracture	3	-
Other neglect	135	20
<i>Total neglect</i>	665	100
Total cases substantiated	1,830	

6 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 one year old.

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 'Type of abuse and neglect substantiated' on page 9).

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 or 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 only involve 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 following 31 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 31 August.

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 1993–94, 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 or 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 Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, 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 the Department of Health and Community 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 of 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 they have either permanent or temporary custody, control or responsibility at the time of abuse or 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 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

Any male or female who is the biological or adoptive parent of the child.

Step-parent

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.

Guardian

Any person who has the legal and ongoing care and responsibility for the protection of a child.

Foster parent

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

Sibling

A natural (i.e. biological), adopted, foster, step or half-brother or sister.

Other relative

This category includes a grandparent, aunt, uncle or cousin, whether the relationship is of the whole blood or half-blood or by marriage. 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 have 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 Victorian Police and the Child Protection Assessment 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 to be abused or neglected in the future, *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 in the short term 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.

7 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

8 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*

Other publications

Australia's welfare: services and assistance 1993

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, the latest in a regular series by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, presents information on reports of child abuse and neglect made to welfare departments in Australia during 1993-94. It shows the number of cases and characteristics of children affected for each State and Territory, including statistics by type of abuse, age, sex, source of report, nature of injury or harm, and relationship to the child of the person believed responsible.

