

Child Maltreatment Rate	
SHIP website description	This indicator shows the rate of children who are maltreated per 1,000 population under the age of 18. Child abuse or neglect can result in physical harm, developmental delays, behavioral problems, or death. Abused and neglected children are at greater risk than other children for delinquency and mistreatment of their own children.
Source	Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Numerator	Unduplicated count of children in Maryland with either an indicated or unsubstantiated finding of child maltreatment (physical and sexual abuse, mental injury-abuse, neglect, and mental injury-neglect) during the State fiscal year
Denominator	Number of children under age 18 years from CDC Bridged Race Population Estimates Data Files and Documentation
Threshold	20
Censorship (if below threshold)	Not applicable
Calculation and metric	$(\text{Numerator}/\text{Denominator}) * 1,000 = \text{Single-Year Calculation}$
Race/ethnicity categories (on SHIP chart)	All races/ ethnicities (aggregated)

<p>Other</p>	<p>DHR recommends that goals not be set at this time, as DHR implemented Alternative Response during SFY 2014. Alternative Response is a new approach for managing low risk reports of child abuse and neglect that will result in safer kids, stronger families and significantly fewer indicated and unsubstantiated findings. It uses a family “strength- based approach” for responding to a credible report that a child has been abused or neglected.</p> <p>Under Alternative Response, the definitions of abuse and neglect are unchanged, and the total number of cases accepted for intervention by Child Protective Services is not expected to change. The difference is that once a case is accepted, it will be assigned to one of two tracks: Investigative Response or Alternative Response. Higher risk reports including cases involving serious physical abuse or sexual abuse will be referred to the Investigative Response track and will be handled the same way they are today, resulting in a formal finding.</p> <p>Low risk reports can be pursued through Alternative Response (AR). Local staff will take into consideration key factors including: the type of maltreatment, the level of risk of harm or endangerment to any child in the home, and the family’s history of involvement with the agency. AR cases will not result in a finding of maltreatment.</p> <p>Therefore, the number of findings of maltreatment, beginning in SFY 2014, will significantly decrease. It is estimated that as many as 60% of screened-in reports may be referred to AR, and thus result in no findings. At this point there has only been one year of monitoring maltreatment of children while AR has been fully implemented, and DHR will continue to review this indicator in the coming year.</p> <p>DHR recommends that baseline data (two to three years) of AR implementation data be gathered before determining any goal regarding maltreatment findings.</p> <p>At this time, a target has not been set for this measure. In SFY 2014, DHR implemented Alternative Response, a new approach for managing low risk reports of child abuse and neglect. This approach will result in safer kids, stronger families and significantly fewer indicated and unsubstantiated findings. It uses a family “strength-based approach” for responding to a credible report that a child has been abused or neglected. Therefore, the number of findings of maltreatment will significantly decrease beginning in SFY 2014. After two to three years of baseline data, a new target will be set for this measure.</p>
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