

# SPOTLIGHT ON STATS

IECAM Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map

## Child Abuse and Neglect (2015)

Child abuse and neglect affect more than 1.25 million children in the United States. [1] The four major types of maltreatment are physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. [2] The most common type of child maltreatment is neglect—when the parent or caregiver fails to provide for a child’s basic needs. [3] Abused and neglected children are often removed from their homes and placed in foster care until their parents or caregivers are able to appropriately care for them or until they can be adopted.

Child abuse and neglect can have lifelong implications. Children who are maltreated often are at risk of experiencing cognitive delays and emotional difficulties, among other issues. Toxic stress, like abuse and neglect,

occurs when a child experiences strong, frequent, and/or prolonged adversity without supportive, nurturing adult relationships. Childhood trauma also negatively affects the brain, the nervous system, and the immune system, placing children who have been maltreated at a higher risk for health and behavior problems as adults. [2, 3]

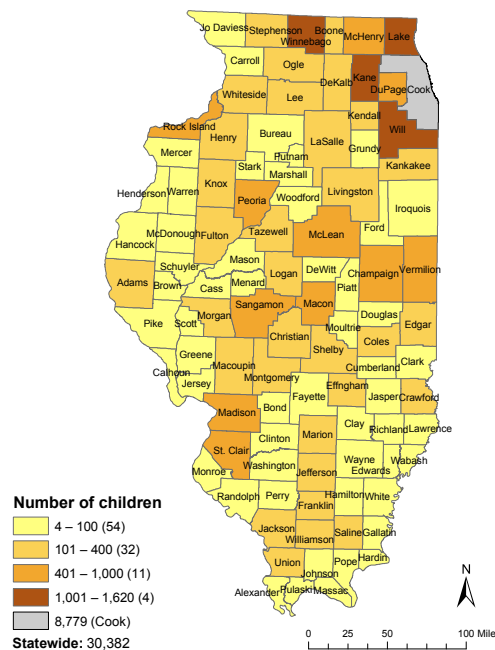
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 14,558 children under age 6 indicated as abused or neglected in Illinois in 2015. Abused and neglected young children make up 1.5% of the population in that age group in Illinois. [4]

The maps below display the number and rates per 1,000 of young children in Illinois who have experienced abuse and/or neglect by county.

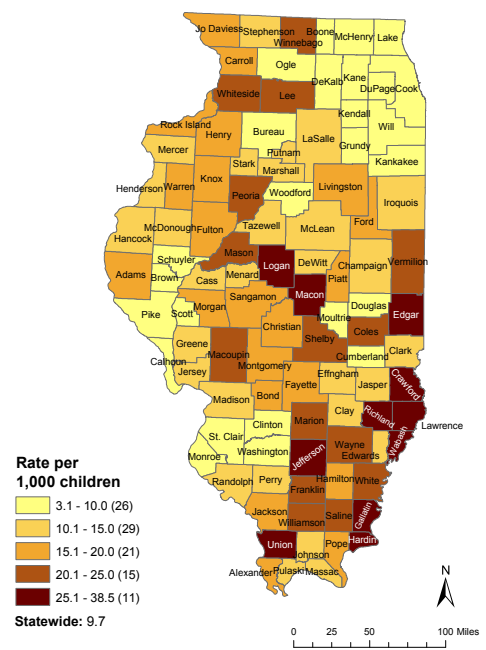
IECAM provides a comprehensive picture of early care and education services in Illinois by combining demographic data (population, language use, poverty level, characteristics) and early childhood program data (Preschool for All, Head Start, Child Care).

Spotlight on Stats is a periodic data resource that will highlight particular demographic data (e.g., languages, risk factors, population characteristics) on the state as a whole.

Number of children indicated for abuse or neglect across Illinois counties (FY2015)



Rate per 1,000 of children indicated for abuse or neglect across Illinois counties (FY2015)



- [1] Sedlak, A. J., Mettenburg, J., Basena, M., Petta, I., McPherson, K., Greene, A., & Li, S. (2010). *Fourth national incidence study of child abuse and neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.
- [2] Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013, July). *What is child abuse and neglect? Recognizing the signs and symptoms*. Washington, DC: Author.
- [3] National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. (2012). *The science of neglect: The persistent absence of responsive care disrupts the developing brain* (Working Paper 12). Retrieved from <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- [4] Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (2016). *Child abuse and neglect statistics: Fiscal year 2015*. Retrieved from [https://www.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/DCFS\\_Annual\\_Statistical\\_Report\\_FY2015.pdf](https://www.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/DCFS_Annual_Statistical_Report_FY2015.pdf)

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