

Child Welfare Fact Child Fatalities Due to Intra-Familial Abuse/Neglect CW 6

Colorado Counties Inc.

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- Colorado's child fatalities due to intra-familial maltreatment have declined since 2003 from **32** to **26** in 2010.
- Colorado's child fatalities due to intra-familial maltreatment when the county department of social services had prior involvement have declined from **18** in 2003 to **8** in 2010.
- In 2003, **56%** of all child fatalities due to intra-familial abuse or neglect had prior county involvement, whereas that was reduced to **31%** in 2010.

SUBSTANTIATED FATALITIES DUE TO INTRA-FAMILIAL ABUSE/NEGLECT HAVE MOVED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Certainly, while any child fatality due to abuse or neglect is too many, it's important to note that the number of total child fatalities due to intra-familial abuse or neglect has actually declined in Colorado since 2003.

The table below shows child fatalities due to intra-familial abuse or neglect by calendar year for the past eight years. It also displays the number of fatalities in which there was prior child welfare involvement (defined as a prior referral, assessment/ investigation or case involving the child prior to the substantiated fatality). The fatality data shown in the chart differs from the data reported in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, in that it does **not** include fatalities due to third party or institutional abuse/neglect.

The table and the following graph show that the number of referrals (reports) of child maltreatment handled by the counties grew by **30%** from 2003 to 2010. The number of fatalities due to intra-familial abuse or neglect has fallen from **32** in 2003 to **26** in 2010, as has the number of fatalities with prior involvement, which has gone from **18** in 2003 to **8** in 2010. Note that the percent of child fatalities that had prior county involvement has dropped over this span from **56%** to **31%** of all fatalities.

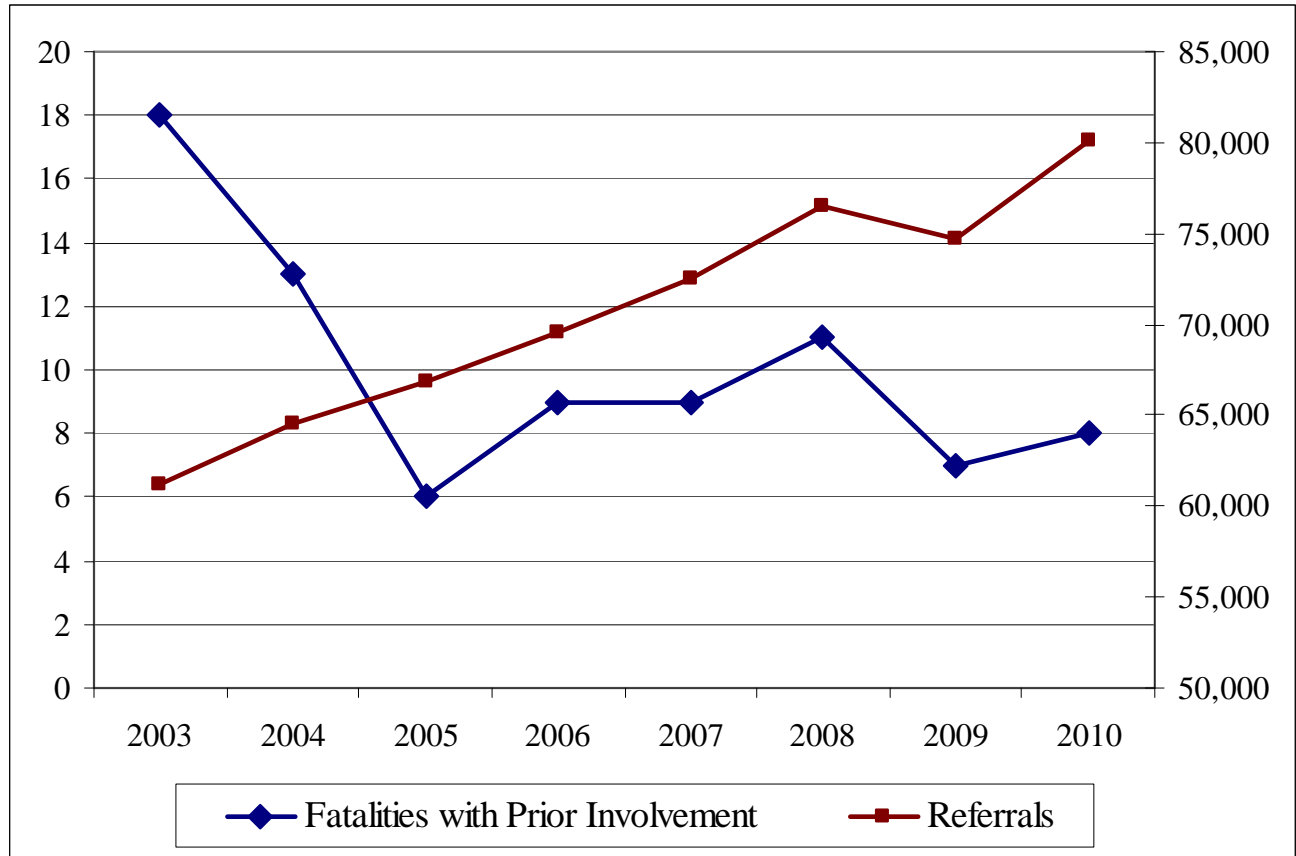
**Substantiated (Confirmed) Fatalities
Due to Intra-Familial Abuse/Neglect by Calendar Year, 2003-2010**

Year Reported	Number of Referrals to Counties	Number of Fatalities due to Intra-Familial Abuse/Neglect	Number of Fatalities with Prior County Involvement**	% of Fatalities with Prior County Involvement
2003	61,232	32	18	56%
2004	64,527	25	13	52%
2005	66,804	23	6	26%
2006	69,524	23	9	39%
2007	72,505	24	9	38%
2008	76,524	28	11	39%
2009	74,706	29	7	24%
2010	80,118	26	8	31%

Source: TRAILS

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**Substantiated Fatalities Due to Intra-Familial Abuse/Neglect
With Prior County Involvement and Referrals by Calendar Year, 2003-2010**



Source: TRAILS data.

**** Note:** Data includes the child fatalities due to *intra-familial* abuse or neglect, and not fatalities due to third-party or institutional abuse/neglect.

The ratio between the number of referrals (Column 2) to fatalities with prior county involvement (Column 4) is extremely small. In 2003, it was **0.03%** and improved in 2010 to **0.01%**. **This indicates that even though child protection referrals increased from 2003 to 2010, corresponding child fatalities due to maltreatment with prior county involvement were less frequent in 2010.**