

**Report on Serious Injuries, Deaths and
Incidents of Child Abuse in Vermont
Regulated Child Care**

October 2019

The Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division regulates child care programs in Vermont. In addition, the Division is required to report on the number of incidents of serious injuries, deaths and child abuse in those settings each year. The child care regulations outline the requirements for child care programs to report serious incidents to the division. This report outlines the incidents by license type and status of license at the end of the federal fiscal year.

The Division has several types of partners that collaborate to improve outcomes for children:

Child care providers: Child care providers have the biggest role in ensuring there are few or no injuries occur in child care. Child Care programs can learn about and follow Vermont's Child Care Licensing Regulations ensuring appropriate supervision and health and safety standards are met.

Community Support Agencies: Agencies and organizations based in the communities and state have a role in supporting child care workers in understanding best practice in health and safety standards and offering training to the workers.

The public: The general public can help by reporting any concerns about child care programs to the VT Child Care Licensing Regulations to the Child Development Division which will ensure licensors are aware of the needed guidance and support by programs.

What Works

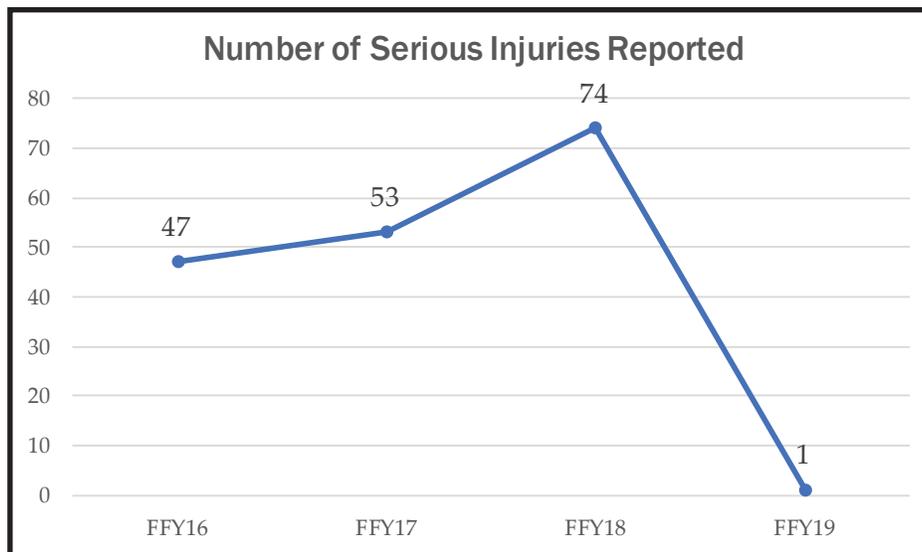
The Division has found that child care licensing visits help to ensure compliance with the VT Child Care Licensing Regulations are essential to support child care programs to be safe, supportive environments for children and families. Also training in best practices for appropriate guidance, supervision and healthy practices supports child care workers in preventing injuries. In addition, the Child Care Licensing Regulations require trainings for all child care workers on safe sleep practices, and other basic safe and healthy practices in child care programs.

Serious Injuries

Effective October 1, 2018 the State of Vermont used the following definition of a serious injury: An injury in which a child has sustained a permanent loss or impairment of function of any body part and/or has sustained serious disfigurement.

Prior to October 1, 2018 the State of Vermont used this definition of serious injury: A serious impairment of physical condition due to an injury, including, but not limited to, the following: loss of consciousness; concussion; bone fracture; toddler fracture; loss or impairment of function of any body part that lasts a long time; a wound requiring many stitches or staples; tooth injury that results in treatment; dislocation of bones; serious disfigurement, etc.

The number of serious injuries decreased from federal fiscal year 2018 to federal fiscal year 2019. This was based on the change in definition of serious injuries.



Serious Injuries in Afterschool Child Care Programs				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY17 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY18 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY19 Reported Serious Injuries
Licensed	5	9	12	0
Expired	0	0	2	0
Revoked	0	0	0	0
Total reported	5	9	14	0

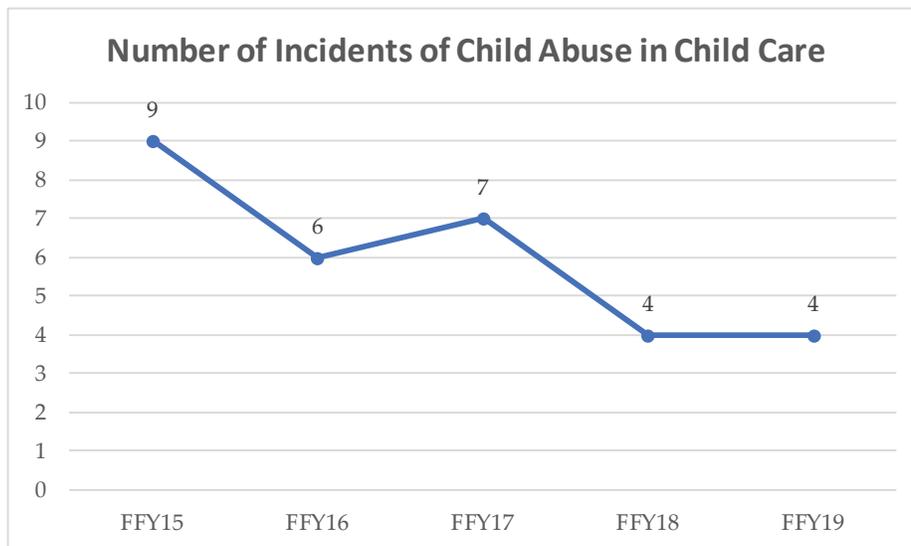
Serious Injuries in Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY17 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY18 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY19 Reported Serious Injuries
Licensed	37	41	54	1
Expired	1	0	1	0
Revoked	0	0	0	0
Total reported	38	41	55	1

Serious Injuries in Family Child Care Homes				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY17 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY18 Reported Serious Injuries	FFY19 Reported Serious Injuries
Licensed	4	3	5	0
Expired	0	0	0	0
Revoked	0	0	0	0
Total reported	4	3	5	0

Child Abuse

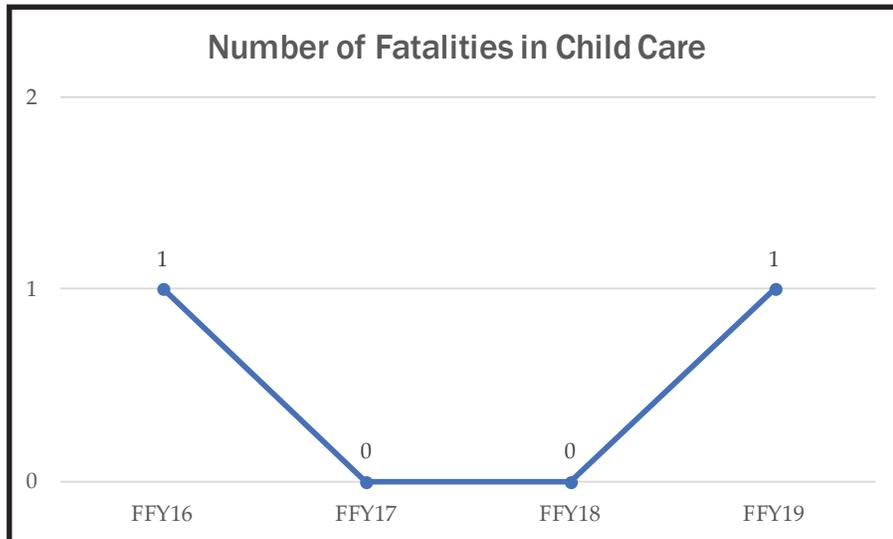
The definition of abused or neglected child is a child whose physical health, psychological growth and development or welfare is harmed or is at substantial risk of harm by the acts or omissions of his or her parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare. Also, a child who is sexually abused or at substantial risk of sexual abuse by any person and a child who has died as a result of abuse or neglect (33 VSA § 4912(1)). The Commissioner's designee has determined after investigation that a report is based on accurate and reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the child has been abused or neglected (33 VSA § 4912(16)). The statute is accessible online at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/049/04912>.

This data is available only in aggregate data and is not available by program type or licensed status.



Fatalities

Serious illness or injury that occurred on the premises of the child care program that results in the death of a child, even if the death occurred outside of the program operating hours or at another location. For example, if a child is injured at the child care program and dies at the hospital several days later this must be reported as a fatality.



Fatalities in Afterschool Child Care Programs				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Fatalities	FFY17 Reported Fatalities	FFY18 Reported Fatalities	FFY19 Reported Fatalities
Licensed	0	0	0	0
Expired	0	0	0	0
Revoked	0	0	0	0
Total reported	0	0	0	0

Fatalities in Center Based Child Care and Preschool Programs				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Fatalities	FFY17 Reported Fatalities	FFY18 Reported Fatalities	FFY19 Reported Fatalities
Licensed	0	0	0	0
Expired	0	0	0	0
Revoked	0	0	0	0
Total reported	0	0	0	0

Fatalities in Family Child Care Homes				
License Status	FFY16 Reported Fatalities	FFY17 Reported Fatalities	FFY18 Reported Fatalities	FFY19 Reported Fatalities
Licensed	0	0	0	0
Expired	0	0	0	0
Revoked	1	0	0	0
Suspended	0	0	0	1
Total reported	1	0	0	1

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