

Fatalities:

Allegheny County:

1-2. Two female siblings, ages seven years and one year, died on May 22, 2011 due to gunshot wounds. Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Family Services substantiated the reports in July of 2011 and named the father of the one-year old as the perpetrator. The father of the one-year old and the mother had been arguing about the seven-year old child's father. The seven-year old called the maternal grandmother to pick her up because she was frightened by the arguing. The maternal grandmother then spoke with the mother who assured her that the father was leaving the home. At some point after the phone call, the father shot and killed the mother and the two children. The father then shot and killed himself. It was reported the father was taking medication for depression. The county agency had been involved with the family in March of 2009 due to allegations of sexual abuse of the child committed by an individual the mother had met that same day the incident was alleged to have occurred. The incident was referred to law enforcement officials and the county agency determined the family was not in need of services.

Bradford County:

3. A four-month old female child died on May 2, 2011 due to medical neglect. Bradford County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in June of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. The mother and child were asleep in the same bed and the mother later awoke and found the child unresponsive. The father was at work when the incident occurred. Upon medical examination, it was revealed the child suffered hemorrhaging of the lungs and died due to suffocation from a roll-over by the mother. The child was to be wearing a sleep apnea monitor while sleeping and the mother reported that she did not have the sleep apnea monitor on the child when the incident occurred. Furthermore, the mother was instructed by the child's pediatrician to never sleep in the same bed with the child. The child was to be on the sleep apnea monitor due to a sibling dying in 1998 from Sudden Unexplained Infant Death. There is no indication that the mother was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the most recent child fatality occurred. There are no other children in the family. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident. The criminal investigation has concluded and no charges have been filed.

Bucks County:

4. A seven-year old male child died on June 17, 2011 due to physical injuries. Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency substantiated the report in July of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. The child died due to the father repeatedly striking him in the head with a baseball bat. The father also killed the mother by repeatedly striking her with a baseball bat. Later that night, the father committed suicide by lying down on railroad tracks and was struck by a train. The father left no

indication as to why he took these actions. There are no other children in the family. This family was not known to the county agency.

Jefferson County:

5. A three-year old male child died on May 21, 2011 due to drowning as a result of a lack of supervision. Jefferson County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. The mother, child and four siblings of the child were visiting the mother's paramour's house. The child and siblings (ranging in age from five to eleven) were in the backyard playing. The three-year old wandered off and fell into a creek. The oldest sibling noticed this and went inside to tell the mother. The mother was asleep and the sibling had trouble waking the mother. It was determined that the mother was asleep due to being medicated for behavioral health issues. The mother's paramour was then found and he went to rescue the child, but was unsuccessful. The mother had stated that she did not feel the children needed to be supervised. The mother has signed a voluntary agreement for the siblings to reside with their father due to the incident. Another county agency is providing services to these children as the father resides in a different county. A county agency where the mother and children resided two months prior to the incident received a referral due to concerns of lack of supervision and mother's behavioral health concerns. The agency assessed the family at that time, but did not provide services. There is an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the incident.

Montgomery County:

6. A three-month old male child died on June 25, 2011 due to physical injuries. Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth substantiated the report in July of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. The child had been visiting at the father's home. The father and child were alone as the father's grandmother, with whom the father lived, and other family members had left the home for a couple of hours. The child vomited on the father and the father took the child into the bathroom to clean him. At this point, the father became frustrated with the child and violently shook him and hit his head against a counter in the bathroom. The child became unresponsive and the father then contacted a friend, who took the father and child to the hospital. The child suffered two skull fractures. The father initially denied knowing how the child received the injuries, but later admitted to causing the injuries. There are no siblings of the child residing in either home. This family was not known to the county agency prior to the incident. The father has been charged with third degree murder and unsworn falsification to authorities and is currently incarcerated.

Philadelphia County:

7. A three-month old male child died on May 15, 2011 due to physical injuries. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in June of 2011 and named a maternal uncle, who was caring for the child when the incident occurred at his house, as the perpetrator. The uncle found the child unresponsive and called a friend for

assistance. Emergency responders were then contacted and the uncle began performing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Upon arrival at the hospital, it was determined the child was suffering from multiple hemorrhaging to his head and needed emergency surgery. The child died a few hours after arriving at the hospital. Medical evidence revealed the injuries were inflicted and were not the result of an accident. The injuries would have occurred while the child was in the care of the uncle. The uncle did disclose that he had shaken the child. There are two older siblings of the child who are to have no contact with the uncle. The mother was at work and had the two older siblings with her when the incident occurred. The county agency had been involved with the mother and the oldest sibling in 2006 due to concerns of the child not being properly cared for or fed. The county agency conducted an assessment, but did not offer any services at that time. The uncle has been charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child and is incarcerated.

8. A six-month old female child died on June 10, 2011 due to physical injuries. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. As reported by the father, the child was placed on the couch next to him as he was playing video games. The child began choking and vomiting and the father began CPR. The father reported finding a penny in the child's mouth. The father called the mother, who was not at home at the time, and then called emergency responders. The father reported that he shook the child to get her to respond. The child was admitted to the hospital on June 6, 2011 when the incident occurred. The child had subdural hemorrhaging and was unresponsive. The child was placed on life support and after four days of no brain activity was removed from life support and declared deceased. The child also had a healing fractured tibia. Medical evidence determined the injuries were of a non-accidental nature and the father's account of the incident was not consistent with the injuries. There are three older siblings who are currently residing with their maternal grandmother due to the incident. The siblings received medical examinations and no concerns were found. The county agency had been involved with the family in 2009 regarding concerns of lack of supervision of one of the siblings who was two years of age at the time of that incident. The allegations were unable to be confirmed and no services were initiated. There is an ongoing criminal investigation and the father has been incarcerated for other offenses for which he had outstanding warrants.

9. A ten-year old male child died on June 12, 2011 from smoke inhalation due to a lack of supervision. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services substantiated the report in June of 2011 and named the father as the perpetrator. The child was home alone while the father was at a corner bar and a fire broke out in the home. The incident occurred on June 7, 2011. The child was hospitalized at that time and subsequently died at the hospital. It was reported that there had been no electricity in the home and the fire started from candles that were being used for light. There are no siblings of the child residing in the home. The child has half siblings, who are not children of the father, and who live with their maternal grandmother. The father and child were not known to the county agency prior to the incident. There is an ongoing criminal investigation.

Wayne County:

10. A newborn female died on May 28, 2011 due to physical injuries. Wayne County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 and named both parents as the perpetrators. The father was named as a perpetrator for committing the abusive act and the mother was named for failing to protect the child. The mother and father were grocery shopping and the mother started to have contractions. The two went to their car and the mother gave birth to the child while in the car. The father's younger sister was also present. The father drove the mother and his sister to their house and subsequently took the child to a landscaping business at which he was employed and hit the child twice with a cinder block. The father then buried the child. The father's sister told her parents about the baby being delivered in the car and they confronted their son. The father eventually disclosed to them what had occurred and the family contacted law enforcement officials. There are two older siblings of the child who had been living with the mother and father who are now residing with relatives due to the incident. The family had recently moved to Pennsylvania from New Jersey. The county agency had received a referral on May 4, 2011 from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) of New Jersey as DYFS was involved with the family on an intake level due to housing concerns and lack of food. DYFS was about to make their last contact with the family to close the intake and they learned the family had moved to Pennsylvania. An arrest warrant had been issued for the mother for not paying child support. She has three other children, who have different fathers, living with relatives in New Jersey. The county agency was unable to make contact with the family and closed the assessment after consultation with New Jersey on June 6, 2011. Both the mother and father have been criminally charged with homicide and concealing the death of a child. The father is also charged with abuse of a corpse. Both parents are currently incarcerated.

Near Fatalities**Bedford County:**

1. A two-month old male child nearly died on June 9, 2011 due to serious physical injuries. Bedford County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 for physical abuse and named the child's father as the perpetrator. The child's father was home alone with the child at the time of the incident, and he later admitted to shaking the baby. The child had bleeding on the brain and behind both eyes, as well as contusions on both sides of his face and on his chin. The child was removed from the home as the result of this incident, and he was placed in kinship care with his paternal aunt. The child has visits with the mother three times a week at the kinship home. The mother is receiving parenting services to help work toward reunification. The father currently has no contact with the child by court order. Shortly after the incident, the father, who is a juvenile, was arrested on charges related to the child's injuries and placed at the Cambria County Detention Center. The father has been charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, simple assault, recklessly endangering

another person, and harassment. As the result of a court hearing, it was ordered that the father be tried as an adult. The family has no history of prior county agency involvement.

Crawford County:

2. A two-year old female child nearly died on April 2, 2011 due to physical injuries. Crawford County Human Services substantiated the report in May of 2011 and named the mother and the mother's paramour as the perpetrators. The child was taken to the hospital where it was determined the child had bilateral retinal hemorrhaging and a subdural hematoma that required surgery. The mother and the mother's paramour claimed the child was climbing on a chair and fell off the side of the chair. The physician felt the severity of the child's injury did not match this explanation. The mother failed a polygraph exam that was administered by the police, and when she was confronted, she admitted to shaking the child. Because the county could not rule out the mother's paramour's involvement with the child's injuries, he was also substantiated as a perpetrator. The child is currently residing in foster care. The child's six-year old and one-year old brothers reside in separate kinship foster homes. The mother has supervised visits with all three children. The mother's paramour does not have contact with the children. The mother has been charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, and endangering the welfare of children-preventing/interfering with making a report. Mother is not currently incarcerated. Mother recently waived her right to a preliminary hearing and the charges are being held over for trial. The mother's paramour has not been criminally charged related to this incident. Crawford County Human Services had prior involvement with the family due to the medical needs of the child's sibling and the parents feeling that they could not care for the sibling. This sibling subsequently died while in the hospital due to medical concerns. At the time of the April incident, Crawford County Human Services was providing general protective services due to the parents failing to follow-up with the medical needs for the two-year old subject child related to a birth defect.

Erie County:

3. A one-year old male child nearly died on May 11, 2011 due to physical injuries. Erie County Office of Children and Youth substantiated the case in June 2011 and named the mother's paramour as the perpetrator. The mother's paramour was watching the child while mother worked. The mother's paramour initially claimed that the child jumped off of the paramour's lap, ran into another room and hit his head on a door frame. The mother's paramour called the mother and emergency services. The child was hospitalized and a medical exam determined that the child had an acute subdural bleed, signs of acute edema, and severe retinal hemorrhages. The child also required a blood transfusion as the result of his injuries. The mother's paramour provided inconsistent explanations for the child's injuries. The physician determined that the child's injuries were a result of being violently shaken and blunt force trauma to the head. Upon discharge from the hospital, the child was moved to a brain injury rehabilitation unit. The child has a two-year old half-brother who is currently residing with his father and paternal grandmother. The mother's paramour was arrested and charged with aggravated

assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and recklessly endangering another person. He is currently incarcerated in Erie County Prison. The child was adjudicated dependent but remains in the custody of his mother and father, who have remained at his side while the child has been at the rehabilitation facility.

Luzerne County:

4. A five-month old female child nearly died on April 5, 2011 due to physical injuries she received from serious physical neglect. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in May of 2011 and named the mother as the perpetrator. The mother initially brought the child to the hospital on April 4, 2011 due to the child rolling off of a changing table when the mother turned her back. The child was examined, treated, and released later that evening. The child returned to the hospital the following day due to decreased activity, and a medical examination revealed that the child had an epidural bleed and a skull fracture. The mother admitted that she had turned her back to get clothing for the child when the child rolled off the table. The family was receiving ongoing general protective services at the time of the incident. The services were started after the child allegedly fell from her changing table in January of 2011. The county agency determined it would be possible that the child fell off of the changing table due to the child's age and mobility at the time of the fall; however, the county was concerned with the mother's mental health and possible lack of supervision issues. The mother was receiving ongoing mental health services and services through Nurse Family Partnership. Currently the child is residing in kinship care. The mother is visiting with the child. The mother is continuing to work with Nurse Family Partnership and is receiving assistance in parenting skills, as well as mental health services.

5. A one-year old male child nearly died on June 22, 2011 due to injuries sustained while he was not being properly supervised. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 for lack of supervision resulting in a physical condition and named the child's mother as the perpetrator. The child fell from a second story window onto a bag of old carpets, sustaining a left femur fracture. The child was unresponsive when he was brought to the hospital, but has since recovered. He and his four siblings (ages 13 years, 10 years, 4 years, and 2 years) remain in the home, and the maternal grandmother has moved into the home to offer additional supervision and support for the mother. Additionally, the county agency is providing services to the family. The child has four additional siblings who reside outside of the home. Two of these children (ages 7 years and 6 years) reside with their biological father, and two of the children (16 years and 8 years) reside with their paternal grandmother. Luzerne County Children and Youth Services was previously involved with the family on two brief occasions. In November of 2010, allegations were made that the children were being left alone at night. The situation was assessed and the case was closed, because the county agency determined the children were being adequately supervised. In May of 2011, the county received a report that there was an incident of domestic violence in the home, in which this child was hit in the eye with a rock by the maternal aunt's boyfriend, who did not reside in the home. The child suffered swelling to his eye and discoloration to his face, down to his jawbone. The case was assessed by the county agency and

closed. Law enforcement has determined that the fall was accidental, and criminal charges will not be filed.

Lancaster County:

6. A four-month old female child nearly died on May 29, 2011 due to physical abuse. Lancaster County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in July of 2011 naming the child's father as the perpetrator and the child's mother as perpetrator by omission. The child had three skull fractures, 16 rib fractures, retinal hemorrhaging, bilateral subdural hematomas, and a contusion on the left temporal lobe of her brain. The child's father admitted hitting her in the head and abdomen. The mother picked the child up from the father's home and noticed a large dent in the child's forehead and the child's eyes appeared fixed. The mother asked the father what happened and he told the mother that he hit the child "too hard" and he squeezed the child, but the mother failed to seek medical treatment for the child for several hours after being aware of the child's condition. The child is currently placed in a foster home for children with complex medical needs, and she is expected to make a full recovery. At the time of the incident the mother and children were residing in a homeless shelter for women and children. Following the incident, the child's three-year old sibling was removed from the mother's care due to safety concerns as well as concerns regarding the lack of stable housing. The child's sibling is currently in a pre-adoptive foster home, and the goal is to place the child in the same home once the victim child makes a successful recovery. A dependency hearing was held in August of 2011 and the judge ordered a "no return plan" for both children. The judge also ordered that the abuse be founded on both parents. Based on this court decision there is no plan to reunify either child with their natural parents. This family was not previously known to child protective services; however, mother was receiving housing and supportive services from a community program prior to the near fatality incident. The father has been charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children. While the father was incarcerated, it was discovered that he has 7 felony charges related to assaults from the state of Washington. None of the assaults were against children, but most were related to domestic violence.

Northampton County

7. A five-year old male child nearly died on May 21, 2011 due to severe medical neglect. Mother brought the child to the hospital for a dental abscess. Northampton County Children Youth and Families substantiated the case in July of 2011 and named mother, father, and paternal grandmother as perpetrators. The child was admitted to the hospital for excessive dental decay for which he had to be hospitalized and received intravenous antibiotics. The parents and the paternal grandmother, who provided care for the child, failed to provide the child with appropriate dental care, despite having insurance coverage. The child had not received dental care for at least 23 months. The child continues to reside with his mother, father, and paternal grandmother based on a custody agreement. There are no concerns regarding the care of the two siblings who also reside in the home full-time, and they have been receiving adequate dental care. Northampton County Children Youth and Families was involved on two prior occasions (2007 and

2008) with this family regarding concerns about the child's dental care. The last involvement was in 2008, which resulted from the child needing to have five teeth removed via dental surgery. The case was closed shortly after his surgery with no services provided or offered to the family at that time. Currently, the family is participating in services through the Visiting Nurses Association related to parenting skills. Due to the severity of the neglect, the child is now required to see a dentist every 3-6 months for monitoring. This case remains open with the county agency for services.

Philadelphia County:

8. A four-month old male child nearly died on May 27, 2011 due to non-accidental injuries sustained while in the care of a babysitter. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated the report in June of 2011 for physical abuse against the babysitter. The child suffered a skull fracture, subdural hematoma, retinal hemorrhage, torn ligaments in his neck, and brain injury due to lack of oxygen to the brain. Medical personnel determined these injuries were sustained as the result of violent inflicted trauma while in the care of a babysitter who was residing in the same shelter as the child and his mother. DHS has been involved with the child since his birth due to the child testing positive for methadone and exhibiting symptoms of withdrawal. Upon discharge from the hospital, the child returned with his mother to the shelter program. Mother had signed a safety plan stating she would not leave the shelter program with the child without a shelter staff accompanying them. Additionally, the mother and child were receiving services from Presbyterian Children's Village. These services were in place at the time of the incident. The child is currently residing in foster care, due to the inability to find adequate housing for the child and his mother. No criminal charges have been filed at this time in relation to the child's injuries but the police investigation is ongoing.

9. A nine-month old male child nearly died on May 28, 2011 due to drug ingestion resulting from a lack of supervision. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) substantiated this case in June of 2011 for lack of supervision against the child's mother and father. The child was left unsupervised and swallowed his father's suboxone patches, which were left within the child's reach in an ashtray on a coffee table. The child had stopped breathing and was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he was revived. The father's current whereabouts are unknown. When the child was discharged from the hospital, the parents were unable to provide family placement resources for the child. The child was subsequently placed into foster care. The child has siblings, but they reside out-of-state. The siblings were not in the parents' care at the time of the incident. The three siblings had been removed from the mother's care when she lived in New Jersey. The twelve-year old sibling resides with her biological father in Florida. The three-year old sibling is currently in foster care in New Jersey. The third sibling, unknown age, has been adopted. DHS had prior involvement with the family. A general protective services referral regarding mother's drug abuse was received by DHS in October of 2010. This referral was unsubstantiated after DHS conducted unscheduled home visits. DHS referred the family for community services. No criminal charges have been filed in relation to the child's injuries.

York County

10. A one-month old female child nearly died on May 4, 2011 due to physical injuries. York County Children and Youth Services substantiated the report in June of 2011 and named both mother and father as perpetrators. The child was brought to the hospital by the mother after the child suffered a seizure. The child was examined and it was determined the child had two rib fractures, retinal hemorrhaging, bleeding on the brain, and numerous bruises in various stages of healing on her extremities. The physician suspected the head trauma likely occurred 24 to 48 hours prior to the seizure. The physician determined that based on the age of the child and the child's limited movement, the injuries were most likely abusive in nature. The mother was home alone with the child immediately prior to the child being taken to the hospital, but both parents were responsible for the child's care and supervision in the days prior to the child's seizure. Neither the mother nor the father have been able to provide an explanation for the child's injuries. Upon discharge from the hospital, the child was placed in the care of her paternal grandparents. The parents have supervised visitation with the child in the home of the paternal grandparents. The family is currently receiving services through a York County Children and Youth contracted service provider. A criminal investigation is ongoing and no charges have been filed related to this case at this time.