

- There was a 35.7% increase in referrals from 2003 to 2012.
- Colorado’s child fatalities due to maltreatment have declined since 2003 from **31** to **26** in 2012. This represents a decline of **16.2% over a 10 year span.**
- Colorado’s child fatalities due to intra-familial maltreatment when the county department of social services had prior involvement have increased from **29%** in 2003 to **35%** in 2012.
- In 2003, **9** child fatalities due to intra-familial abuse or neglect had prior county involvement, compared to **9** in 2012.

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 abuse or neglect has actually declined in Colorado since 2003.

The table below shows child fatalities abuse or neglect by calendar year for the past 10 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 or child’s family within five years prior to the substantiated fatality for fatalities which occurred in 2003 to December 31, 2012. 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 **35.7%** from 2003 to 2012. The total number of child fatalities due to abuse or neglect has fallen from **31** in 2003 to **26** in 2012. There were 9 fatalities with prior county involvement in 2003 and 10 years later also in 2012. Note that the percent of child fatalities that had prior county involvement has increased over this span from **29%** to **35%** of all fatalities.

**Substantiated Fatalities  
Due to Abuse/Neglect by Calendar Year, 2003-2012**

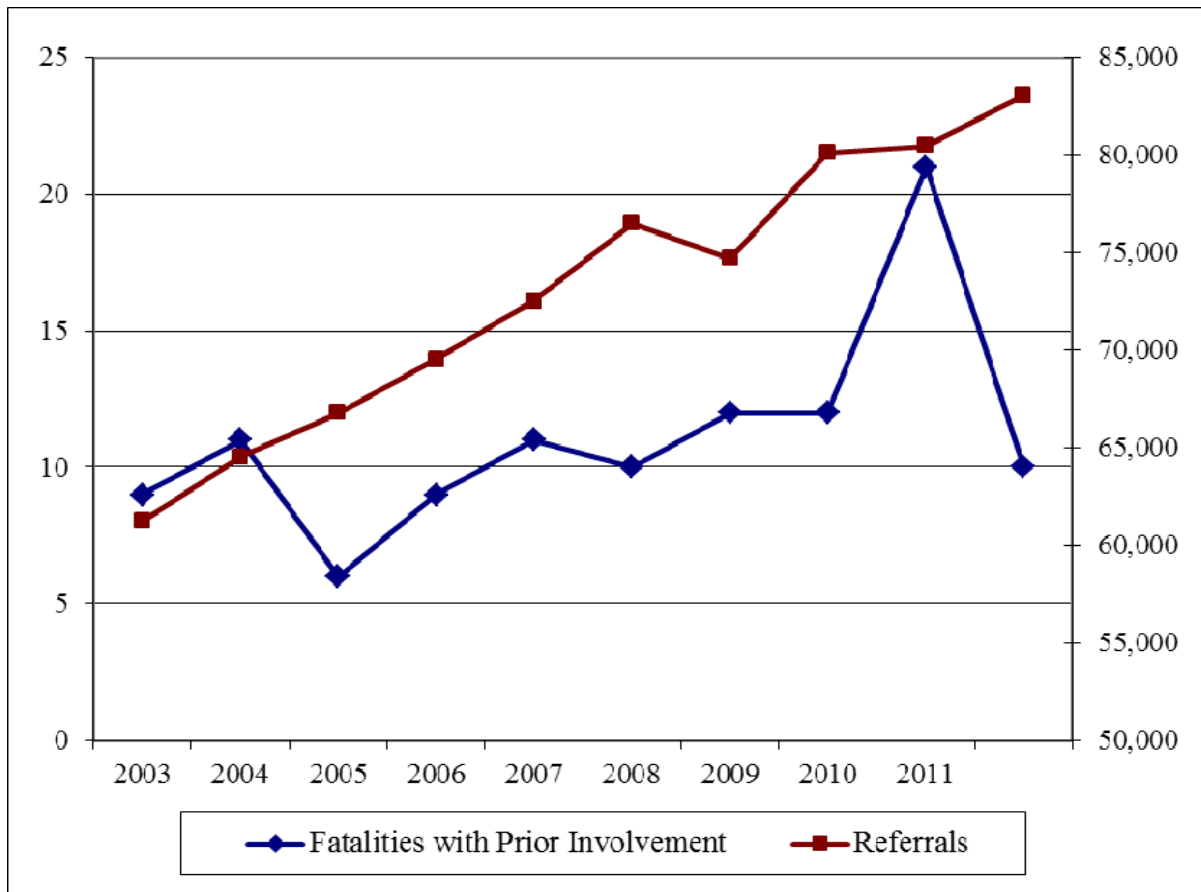
<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Total Number of Fatalities due to Abuse/Neglect</b>	<b>Total Number of Fatalities with Prior County Involvement**</b>	<b>% of Fatalities with Prior County Involvement</b>
2003	61,232	31	9	29%
2004	64,527	28	11	39%
2005	66,804	24	6	25%
2006	69,524	25	9	36%
2007	72,505	28	11	39%
2008	76,524	30	10	33%
2009	74,706	34	12	35%
2010	80,118	33	12	36%
2011	80,472	38*	21*	55%
2012	83,089	26	9	35%

**Source:** TRAILS

\* Five of these fatalities occurred in a single motor vehicle accident

**-continued-**

**Substantiated Fatalities Due to Abuse/Neglect  
With Prior County Involvement and Referrals by Calendar Year, 2003-2012**



**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 **0.014%** and improved in 2012 to **0.0108%**. **This indicates that even though child protection referrals increased from 2003 to 2012, corresponding child fatalities due to maltreatment with prior county involvement declined in 2012.** The sharp drop from 2011 was due to a traffic accident involving 5 children that caused the number to jump. If this extraordinary year is excluded, this ratio remains relatively stable over time.