

X County Experiences [Decline/Increase] in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

RALEIGH –In state fiscal year 2005, X County investigated X cases of child abuse and neglect, [up/down] from X the year before. X of those children were found to be either abused or neglected, and X of those children were found to be in need of services.

Statewide, 111,581 children were assessed for child abuse and neglect, a decrease of 1,976 from 2003-04. Of those cases, 20,394 children were found to be abused or neglected, and another 6,276 children were found to need services, for a total of 26,670. These last numbers are not entirely comparable to the year before, because of the rollout of MRS, or the multiple response system of child welfare.

ADD A QUOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR ABOUT THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY VIGILANCE IN REPORTING ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

[X County has been a “multiple response” county since X. OR. X County will soon be employing the “multiple response” system of child welfare.]

Multiple response means that social workers have a friendlier, less adversarial way to interact with families when the problem is neglect and the child is not in immediate danger. (Physical and sexual abuse cases continue to follow the traditional model of investigation.) A finding of “in need of service” means that social workers can immediately start serving the family to ensure the safety of the child. MRS was expanded from 10 to 52 counties during the 2003-04 state fiscal year, and is going statewide at the beginning of 2006.

Full child abuse and neglect statistics for X county and for the state can be found at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/stats/cr.htm>