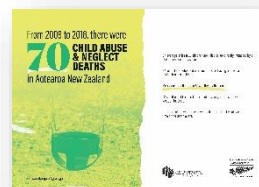


# Supplementary detail: Child abuse and neglect death information sheet



## Definitions

**Child abuse and neglect** – all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation that actually or potentially harms a child's health, development or dignity.

**Child abuse and neglect deaths** – the death of a child caused by a parent, step-parent or caregiver. At present, the following deaths are not included:

- non-family member bystanders or interveners
- suicide
- suicide-assisted deaths
- deaths from chronic illness associated with family violence
- fatal neglectful supervision.

**Offender** – the person responsible for causing the death of the child.

## Data source

The information contained within the information sheet is extracted from the Family Violence Death Review Committee's database. Data in this database is collated from police family violence death notifications and reviews, judicial decisions and health records. The Family Violence Death Review Committee database is live and therefore may be updated.

## Statistical detail

Between 2009 and 2018, there were 70 child abuse and neglect deaths in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- In three cases, more than one offender was charged in relation to the death event.
- There were an additional 64 siblings present at the death event, as recorded by police.
- A further 65 children or young people had a sibling who was killed but were not residing at the home at the time. This is likely to be an undercount because children are often not recorded.
- On average, at least 20 children are killed or directly impacted by a child abuse death each year.

Six of the deceased children (9%) were recorded as having a physical or intellectual disability. Information on disability status was not consistently available. Additional effort is required by agencies to ensure accurate and reliable disability information.

Where the offender is known, 61% (n=43) of offenders were male.

- Fifty-one percent (n=22) of male offenders were aged 20–29 years.
- Of those children killed by a male offender, 72% died as a result of a physical assault with no weapon involved.
- One-third of female offenders (n=7) died by suicide at the time of the death event.

Fifty-one percent (n=36) of children who were killed were male.

- Eighty-three percent of deceased children aged 10–18 years were female.

See our *Fifth Report Data* for detailed analysis of child abuse and neglect death data:

[www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/2952](http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/2952)

Download the information sheet:

[www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/4298](http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/4298)