

# UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law defines child abuse and neglect as when someone intentionally, knowingly or recklessly performs an action or fails to prevent an action that causes a child under the age of 18 to experience serious physical injury or mental harm, sexual abuse or exploitation.

**62%**  
of child victims  
are female

**38%**  
of child victims  
are male

In most cases, the abusers are the



child's parents or other family members.

**IN 2018, CHILD ABUSE LED TO 47 FATALITIES**

There were

**7,696**

substantiated cases of child abuse in Pennsylvania in 2018.

**47.4%** INVOLVED SEXUAL ABUSE

**23.8%** INVOLVED PHYSICAL ABUSE

**9.4%** INVOLVED SERIOUS NEGLECT

**14.9%** INVOLVED MENTAL INJURY