

## Injuries, Deaths and Child Abuse in Child Care Settings

*Updated Oct 2022* Safe center and in-home child care settings provide ample opportunities for children to develop their social skills and to be empowered to solve problems while their parents entrust them to their caregivers.

Because of their natural curiosity and their developing brain and body, children will encounter situations that may cause them harm. Some of the most common injuries in child care happen on the playground, because of loose and falling objects, or due to items and substances not properly stored. However, **safe environments, appropriate ratios, and active supervision have proven to be paramount in preventing injuries.**

Child Care Licensing has established rules to support caregivers in providing foundational health and safety measures. Child care providers are required to give parents a written report incidents, accidents, or injuries involving their child and to report to Child Care Licensing any fatality and all accidents that require medical attention. In the same way, parents should maintain an open communication with caregivers and keep an active initiative to help protect their children. Child Care Licensing, child care providers, and parents must work together to protect children from undue harm.

Facility Type		Child Care Center	Group Child Care	Family Child Care	Family, Friend and Neighbor	Unlicensed Child Care
Injuries	07/01/15 - 06/30/16	3	0	4	0	N/A
	07/01/16 - 06/30/17	37	15	6	1	N/A
	07/01/17 - 06/30/18	22	4	1	0	N/A
	07/01/18 - 06/30/19	17	8	3	0	N/A
	07/01/19 - 06/30/20	6	4	1	0	N/A
	07/01/20 - 06/30/21	5	2	1	0	4
	07/01/21 - 06/30/22	14	2	0	0	7
Child Abuse Neglect Substantiation	07/01/15 - 06/30/16	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/16 - 06/30/17	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/17 - 06/30/18	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/18 - 06/30/19	0	2	0	0	N/A
	07/01/19 - 06/30/20	0	1	0	0	N/A
	07/01/20 - 06/30/21	1	1	1	0	2
	07/01/21 - 06/30/22	1	2	0	0	3
Deaths	07/01/15 - 06/30/16	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/16 - 06/30/17	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/17 - 06/30/18	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/18 - 06/30/19	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/19 - 06/30/20	0	0	0	0	N/A
	07/01/20 - 06/30/21	0	0	0	0	1
	07/01/21 - 06/30/22	0	0	0	0	2

**\*Injuries**

The role of the Child Care Licensing Program is to regulate and monitor child care facilities to ensure that the minimum requirements are being met. Additionally, the Child Care Licensing Program is responsible for protecting the health, safety and well-being of the children receiving child care in Montana.

Child care providers are required to report injuries which result in a child being hospitalized, requiring ambulance transport or intervention, or physician treatment.

Unlicensed child care is not tracked or regulated and therefore the data is based on limited information provided to the department.