

## Right to Information Request – RTI201516-006

1. The number of child protection notifications that have been received by the Department since March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

Region	Notifications
North	5211
North West	4002
South	8711
<b>Total</b>	<b>17924</b>

2. The number of child protection notifications that have been investigated or responded to from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

Region	Investigations
North	540
North West	477
South	940
<b>Total</b>	<b>1957</b>

3. The age groups of children included in child protection notifications from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

Age Category	Notifications			
	North	NW	South	Total
-1	136	122	232	490
0-2	1176	734	1536	3446
3-5	942	745	1560	3247
6-8	883	766	1688	3337
9-11	723	587	1384	2694
12-14	847	631	1445	2923
15-17	495	405	855	1755
Unknown	9	12	11	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>5211</b>	<b>4002</b>	<b>8711</b>	<b>17924</b>

4. The specific age groups of parents involved in child protection notifications from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

<b>Age of Mother</b>	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45-49</b>	<b>50+</b>	<b>Total <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Number</b>									
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>15,423</b>
<b>North</b>	181	624	1,027	1,101	757	477	150	46	4,363
<b>North West</b>	128	405	847	892	720	398	166	51	3,607
<b>South</b>	234	770	1,594	1,994	1,522	939	310	87	7,450
%									
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>North</b>	4%	14%	24%	25%	17%	11%	3%	1%	100%
<b>North West</b>	4%	11%	23%	25%	20%	11%	5%	1%	100%
<b>South</b>	3%	10%	21%	27%	20%	13%	4%	1%	100%

  

<b>Age of Father</b>	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45-49</b>	<b>50+</b>	<b>Total <sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Number</b>									
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>11,724</b>
<b>North</b>	60	352	538	837	610	481	268	157	3,303
<b>North West</b>	57	253	407	543	569	490	271	168	2,758
<b>South</b>	128	402	878	1,248	1,243	950	452	359	5,660
%									
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>North</b>	2%	11%	16%	25%	18%	15%	8%	5%	100%
<b>North West</b>	2%	9%	15%	20%	21%	18%	10%	6%	100%
<b>South</b>	2%	7%	16%	22%	22%	17%	8%	6%	100%

<sup>1</sup> Figures in this table represent the number of notifications during the period where the age of the mother/father is recorded. Notifications for children without a mother or father, or where the age of the mother or father was not recorded, are not included.

## Recording of Risk Factors in the Child Protection Information System

The following provides an overview of the risk information recorded in the Child Protection Information System and provides an introduction to the responses to questions 5, 6 and 7 in this RTI.

### Primary risk type

The “primary risk type” relates to the definition of “at risk” in Section 4(1) of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*. The primary risk type is recorded for the majority of notifications.

#### **4. Meaning of “at risk”**

**(1)** For the purposes of this Act, a child is at risk if –

- (a)** the child has been, is being, or is likely to be, abused or neglected; or
- (b)** any person with whom the child resides or who has frequent contact with the child (whether the person is or is not a guardian of the child) –
  - (i)** has threatened to kill or abuse or neglect the child and there is a reasonable likelihood of the threat being carried out; or
  - (ii)** has killed or abused or neglected some other child or an adult and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused or neglected by that person; or
- (ba)** the child is an affected child within the meaning of the Family Violence Act 2004; or
- (c)** the guardians of the child are –
  - (i)** unable to maintain the child; or
  - (ii)** unable to exercise adequate supervision and control over the child; or
  - (iii)** unwilling to maintain the child; or
  - (iv)** unwilling to exercise adequate supervision and control over the child; or
  - (v)** dead, have abandoned the child or cannot be found after reasonable inquiry; or
  - (vi)** are unwilling or unable to prevent the child from suffering abuse or neglect; or
- (d)** the child is under 16 years of age and does not, without lawful excuse, attend a school, or other educational or training institution, regularly.

### Risk factors

The “risk factor warning list” is a list of in excess of 60 different risk factors relating to the child/young person and the caregiver(s), including risk factors relating to alcohol/drug use, family violence and mental health issues. Individual risk factors are not recorded for the majority of notifications. While a primary risk type may be recorded for a particular notification, the individual risk factors may not be recorded for that notification.

5. The number of child protection notifications that involved drugs and alcohol from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

Region	Any Risk Factors Recorded <sup>1</sup>	% of Notifications <sup>1</sup>	Drugs and/or Alcohol <sup>2</sup>	
			No.	%
North	831	16%	421	51%
North West	1,121	28%	535	48%
South	2,793	32%	1,730	62%
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>57%</b>

**Interpretation:** Of the notifications where any risk factors were identified (26 per cent of all notifications); alcohol/drug issues for the child or parent were identified as one of the risk factors for the child in 57 per cent of these notifications.

- 1 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where risk factors were recorded. Notifications where no risk factors were recorded are not included.
- 2 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where relevant risk factors were recorded.

6. The number of child protection notifications that involved family violence from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

**a. Family violence identified as the primary risk type for the child**

Region	Primary Risk Type Recorded	% of Notifications	Family Violence	
			No.	%
North	4,952	95%	1,912	39%
North West	3,218	80%	1,119	35%
South	8,177	94%	2,825	35%
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>16,347</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>5,856</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Interpretation:** Of the notifications where the primary risk type was identified (91 per cent of all notifications); family violence was identified as the primary risk type for the child in 36 per cent of these notifications.

**b. Family violence identified as one of the risk factors for the child**

Region	Any Risk Factors Recorded <sup>1</sup>	% of Notifications <sup>1</sup>	Family Violence <sup>2</sup>	
			No.	%
North	831	16%	463	56%
North West	1,121	28%	638	57%
South	2,793	32%	1,897	68%
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>63%</b>

**Interpretation:** Of the notifications where any risk factors were identified (26 per cent of all notifications); family violence was identified as one of the risk factors for the child in 63 per cent of these notifications.

1 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where risk factors were recorded. Notifications where no risk factors were recorded are not included.

2 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where relevant risk factors were recorded.

7. The number of child protection notifications that involved mental health issues from March 2014 to June 2015 for each region in Tasmania.

Region	Any Risk Factors Recorded <sup>1</sup>	% of Notifications <sup>1</sup>	Mental Health <sup>2</sup>	
			No.	%
<b>North</b>	831	16%	254	31%
<b>North West</b>	1,121	28%	231	21%
<b>South</b>	2,793	32%	939	34%
<b>State-wide</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Interpretation:** Of the notifications where any risk factors were identified (26 per cent of all notifications); mental health issues for the child or parent were identified as one of the risk factors for the child in 30 per cent of these notifications.

- 1 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where risk factors were recorded. Notifications where no risk factors were recorded are not included.
- 2 Figures represent the number of notifications during the period where relevant risk factors were recorded.