

## **Focus Area 15: Injury and Violence Prevention**

**Objective 15-33b. Reduce maltreatment fatalities of children. Target = 1.4 per 100,000 population under 18 years of age [State Data Source: California Child Death Review Council; CDPH Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC)]**

Fatal child abuse and neglect (FCAN) is the most extreme consequence of child maltreatment. Although existing statewide databases differ in the number of FCAN incidents reported, the overall trend for 1990-1998 was similar across all three databases: California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Vital Statistics Death Records; California Department of Justice (CDOJ) Supplemental Homicide Files and the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI); and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). However, because of multiple difficulties in identifying, investigating and reporting FCAN cases, the true incidence of FCAN is not known. The best current estimates of the number of child abuse and/or neglect fatalities per year for Californians come from the annual Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reconciliation Audit conducted by the EPIC Branch's Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Surveillance (FCANS) Program. This program was established in 2000 to implement the CDPH mandate to track the number of child abuse and neglect deaths in California (CA Penal Code § 11174.34). The FCANS Program has two primary goals: 1) to conduct ongoing surveillance of fatal child abuse and neglect; and 2) based on the findings, to promote prevention strategies, interventions, and support services to reduce child maltreatment and other preventable deaths.

According to data available from FCANS, there was a 32.1 percent increase in child maltreatment fatalities from 140 in 2002 to 185 in 2005. Case rates per 100,000 population under age 18 increased from 1.3 per 100,000 in 2000 to 1.5 per 100,000 in 2002, and to 1.9 per 100,000 in 2005 (data for 2003 and 2004 were unavailable). This HP2010 objective has not been achieved for California's children, and rates are moving away from the HP2010 target (**Figure 15-33b**).

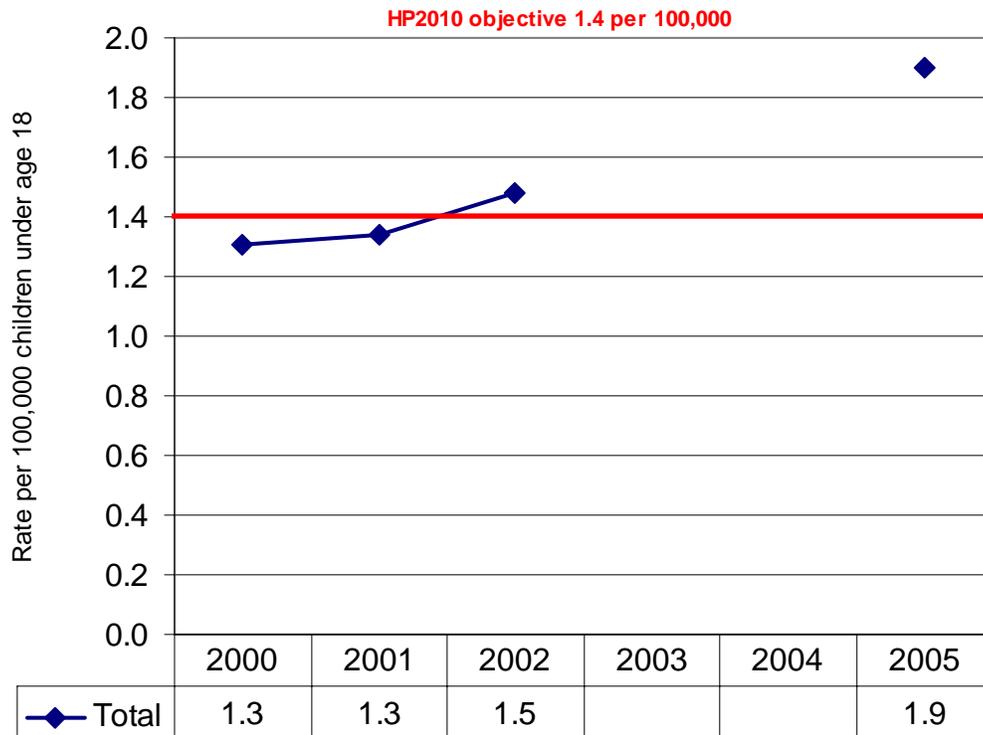
For more information on fatal child abuse and neglect (FCAN) deaths in California, visit the Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) site at: <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/cms/default.htm>

and the California Attorney General's Web site at: <http://www.safestate.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 15-33b, please visit: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm>

and the DATA2010 Web site at: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/data2010/>

**Figure 15-33b. Child Abuse and Neglect Fatality Rates  
California, 2000-2005**



SOURCE: California Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC), Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect Surveillance (FCANS) Program.