

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

10/28/21



**Department of
Children & Family Services**

Building a Stronger Louisiana

BY THE NUMBERS

- **100,000** calls and electronic reports
- **50%** actually file a report

Reports Filed By Mandated Reporters

- **47%** Met legal criteria for investigation
- **16%** Refer to law enforcement/other entity
- **37%** Not accepted/ No action required

CRITERIA

- DCFS is authorized to investigate abusive acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of a child by a parent or caretaker
 - *Physical abuse*
 - *Exploitation*
 - *Sexual abuse*
 - *Neglect*

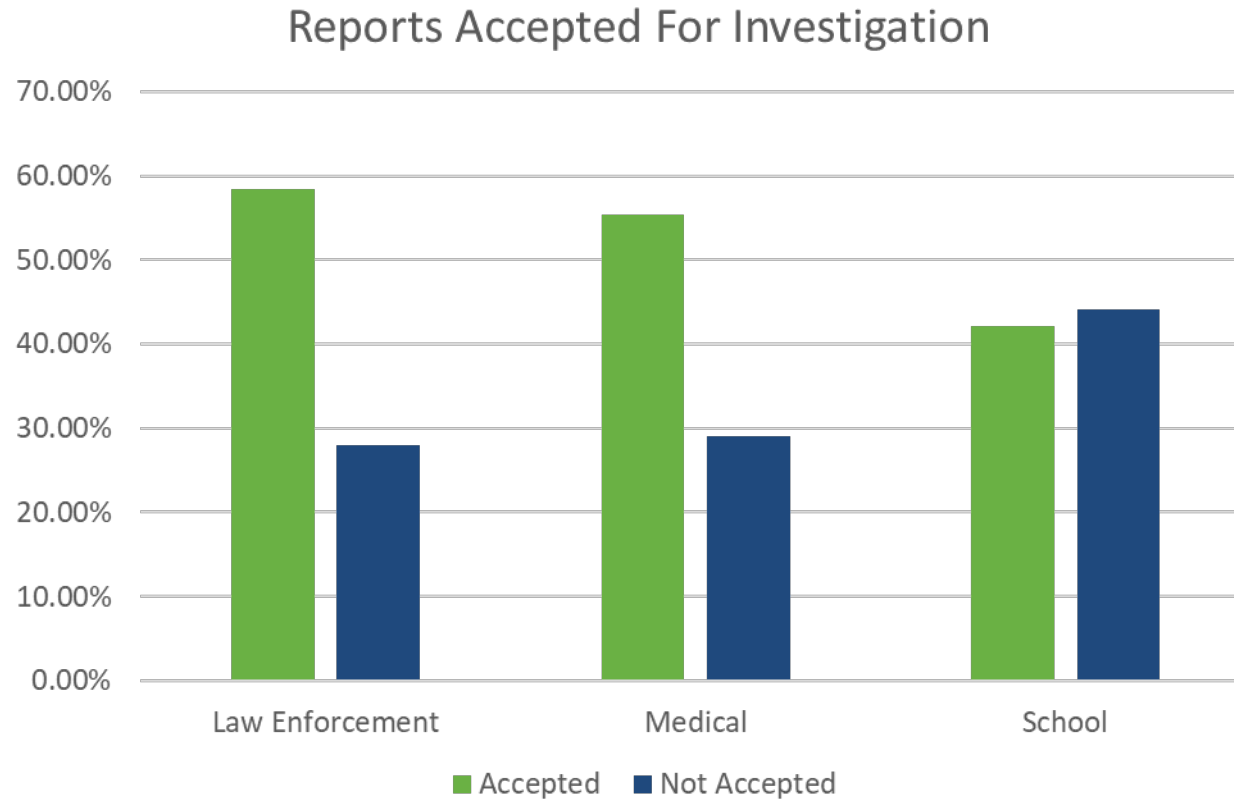
DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE:

- **“Abuse” means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:**
- The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
- The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.
- The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker, or any other person of the child's involvement in any of the following:
 - **Any sexual act with any other person.**
 - **Pornographic displays.**
 - **Any sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state.**
 - **A coerced abortion conducted upon a child.**

NEGLECT

- Refusal or unreasonable failure of a parent or caretaker to provide necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired.
- The inability of a parent or caretaker to provide for a child due to inadequate financial resources shall not, for that reason alone, be considered neglect.

MANDATED REPORTERS



THANK YOU

www.dcfs.la.gov