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## Dataset on Psychosocial Risk Factors in Cases of Fatal and Near-Fatal Physical Child Abuse

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## Data Article

## Dataset on psychosocial risk factors in cases of fatal and near-fatal physical child abuse



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## ABSTRACT

This article presents the psychosocial risk factors identified in the cases of 20 children less than four years of age who were victims of fatal or near-fatal physical abuse during a 12 month period in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. These data are related to the article “History, injury, and psychosocial risk factor commonalities among

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cases of fatal and near-fatal physical child abuse” (Pierce et al., 2017) [1].

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Specifications Table

Subject area	Medicine, Psychology
More specific subject area	Child Abuse
Type of data	Table
How data was acquired	Retrospective case review
Data format	Analyzed
Experimental factors	State records including medical, social, and legal documents were obtained from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
Experimental features	Abstracted data regarding psychosocial risk factors pertaining to caregivers in the child's environment
Data source location	Commonwealth of Kentucky, USA
Data accessibility	Data are available within this article.

Value of the data

- These data reveal commonalities among cases of fatal and near-fatal child abuse and highlight the high prevalence of psychosocial risk factors among caregivers.
- By identifying indicators of maltreatment that were present prior to each child's fatal or near-fatal event, these data may assist medical providers, psychologists, social workers, and legal representatives in collaboratively assessing risk for maltreatment and intervening to prevent future injury.
- These data open doors for further exploration of risk factors for maltreatment, and may guide future research efforts to better inform strategies for child abuse prevention.

1. Data

Psychosocial risk factors identified in 20 cases (10 fatal, 10 near-fatal) of physical child abuse are presented in Table 1. An X indicates the presence of a given risk factor among one or more caregivers in the child's environment.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

The Institutional Review Boards at the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (KY CHFS) approved this research. Our retrospective record review included 20 children younger than four years of age who had been victims of fatal ( $n=10$ ) or near-fatal ( $n=10$ ) child abuse in the Commonwealth of Kentucky [1]. We utilized the Kentucky Revised Statutes [KRS 600.020 (37)] definition of near-fatality: an injury that places a child in serious or critical condition as certified by a physician. The following documents were reviewed when available: medical records associated with all medical visits prior to and including the fatal/near-fatal event, social service

**Table 1**  
Psychosocial risk-factors identified.

Risk-factor	Fatalities										Near-fatalities									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Protective services history</b>																				
Perpetrator prior victim	X							X	X						X	X				X
Perpetrator/parent prior reports		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		
<b>Social factors</b>																				
Recent/frequent moves		X			X			X	X											
Recent change to household composition or childcare	X	X			X				X		X			X						
Reported financial difficulties	X	X				X	X					X								X
Suicide attempts parent/perpetrator	X																			
Substance use history	X	X	X					X	X									X	X	X
Diagnosed/identified mental illness	X	X			X	X		X	X					X						X
Caregiver developmental delay/disability			X						X						X			X		
Visitation or custody dispute			X	X					X	X										
Complaints of baby behavior/colicky/crying					X	X		X	X	X		X						X		X
Developmentally inappropriate expectations/negative attributes/not protective		X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Violence</b>																				
Threats/violence among family members	X	X	X	X			X		X			X		X		X				
Domestic violence	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Orders of protection		X	X		X			X				X		X						
Mandated anger management classes			X						X											
<b>Criminal history</b>																				
Perpetrator Criminal history	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Non-offending parent/partner criminal history	X		X		X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X			
Incarceration – parent/partner or family member		X	X							X					X		X			X

evaluations prior to and including the fatal/near-fatal event, legal proceedings, criminal histories of caregivers, and autopsy findings (when applicable). Three independent investigators reviewed and abstracted data from each de-identified case simultaneously, noting the presence or absence of previously identified psychosocial risk factors in each case.

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## Transparency document. Supplementary material

Transparency data associated with this article can be found in the online version at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2017.07.003>.

## Reference

- [1] M. Pierce, K. Kaczor, D. Acker, T. Webb, A. Brenzel, D. Lorenz, A. Young, R. Thompson, History, injury, and psychosocial risk factor commonalities among cases of fatal and near-fatal physical child abuse, *Child Abuse Negl.* 69 (2017) 263–277. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.04.033>.