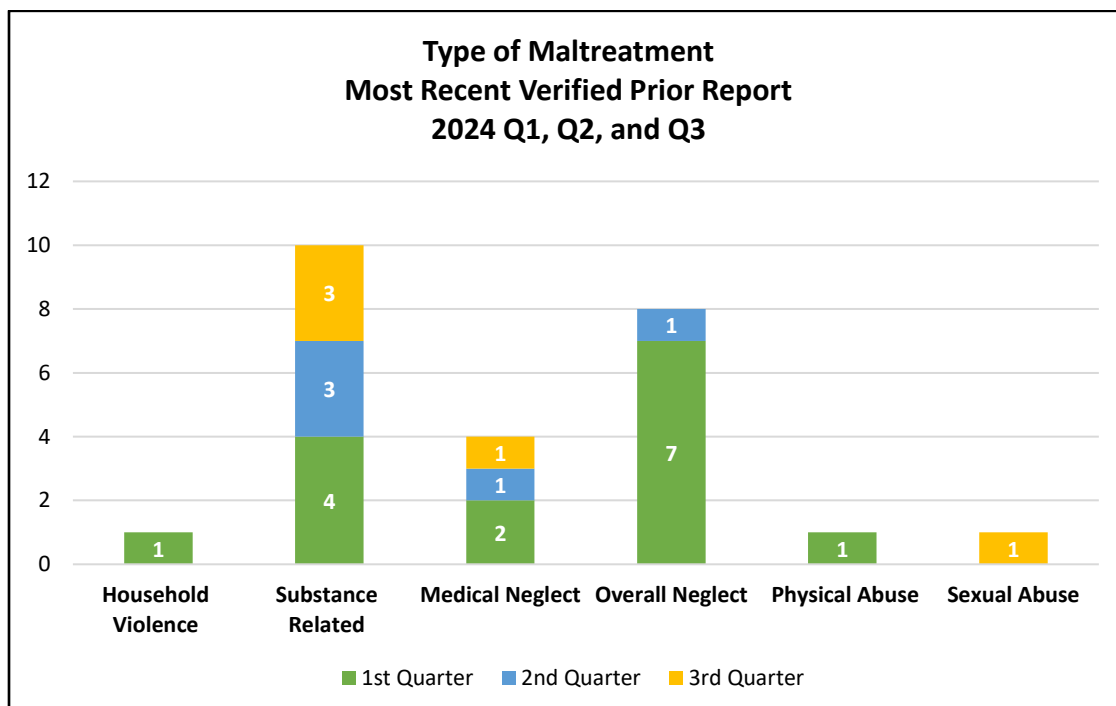
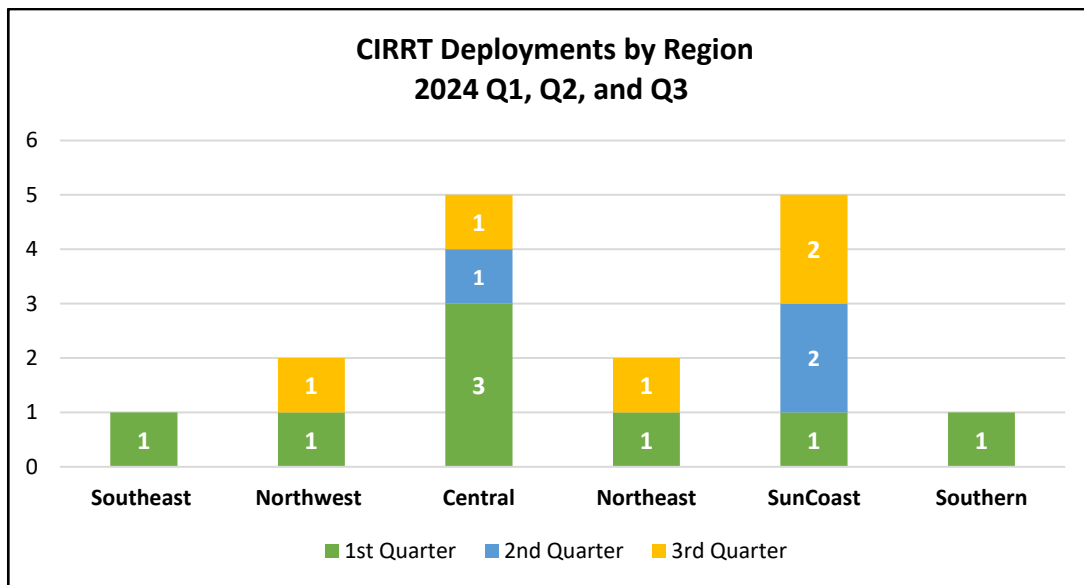


Florida Department of Children and Families Critical Incident Rapid Response Team (CIRRT) Advisory Committee Report Overview 2024-Quarter 3

Between July 1, 2024, and September 30, 2024, there were 96 fatalities reported to the Hotline. Of those 96 cases, five met the criteria for a CIRRT deployment. In four of the deployments, the decedent was a child victim in the prior verified investigation. In three of the deployments, the decedents were under the age of 4 years, and in the remaining deployments, the decedents were six and 14 years old. In two deployments, the family was involved in case management oversight through in-home, non-judicial services when the fatality occurred.



Summary of Deployments

- The deployment to Santa Rosa County involved the sleep related death with an 11-month-old infant who was discovered unresponsive while sleeping in bed with her mother and the mother's boyfriend. The mother was drug screened and was positive for marijuana to which she admitted to smoking every night. At the time of the fatality incident, the family was involved in an active in-home, non-judicial case which stemmed from a verified prior report related to the mother's substance use. An autopsy was completed, and the cause of death is pending.
- The Lake County deployment involved the death of a 6-year-old child after he was hospitalized due to severe asthma that was not being treated, or followed-up, by the mother. The family was involved in one prior report which was unrelated to the circumstances of the fatality; the report was verified for sexual abuse of one of the decedent's siblings. An autopsy was not completed by the medical examiner's office and the cause of death was determined by the certifying physician as a natural death.
- A Hillsborough County deployment involved the death of a 3 ½-year-old, medically complex child, after she was found unresponsive in her crib by the mother. The prior verified investigation was closed with verified findings of medical neglect of the decedent with the mother, as the caregiver, responsible. An autopsy was completed, and the manner of death was deemed natural.
- The deployment to Clay County involved the sleep-related death of a 3-month-old after she was found unresponsive by a non-relative with whom she was bed-sharing. The non-relative was drug screened and was negative for all tested substances. The fatality incident occurred during in-home, non-judicial services which stemmed from the prior report that was verified for substance use and substance exposed newborn. While the mother's older children remained in the mother's care with an in-home safety plan, the decedent was placed with a relative under an out-of-home safety plan. An autopsy was completed, and the cause of death was noted to be consistent with SIDS, and the manner of death was undetermined.
- The Manatee/Pasco County deployment involved the gun-related death of a 14-year-old while she was in the care of her father. The prior verified investigation was closed with verified findings of substance use of the mother. An autopsy was completed, and the death was determined to be the result of suicide.

Overall Findings

During this quarter, there were findings around practice and organizational assessment areas:

Practice Assessment

- In the majority of the reviews, the assessment of present and impending danger properly aligned with the Department's policies and procedures, and sufficient information was obtained to support the final safety determination.
- The following opportunities were identified to improve practice:

- Ensure sufficient information is gathered to appropriately identify and support safety decision and actions as to all children in the home and not just the focus child.
 - Ensure safety plans are developed with actions that do not restrict parental access and safety providers are fully assessed.
 - Ensure supervisory guidance (CPI and CM) is provided at critical junctures to help support decision making.
- Regarding CPT, in medical neglect cases, ensure that the medical specialist consult with a physician that is currently treating or has previously treated the condition that is the reported concern.

Service Array

- Ensure that there is effective communication and collaboration between service providers and case management.
- There are limited service providers to address teen substance-related cases in Pasco County.