

## Facility Reports

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is mandated by South Dakota Codified Law 26-8A-9 to investigate reported incidents of child abuse/neglect when those incidents involve a parent, guardian, or custodian.

A custodian is defined by South Dakota Codified Law 26-7A-1. A custodian refers to any foster parent, employee of a public or private residential home or facility, or other person legally responsible for a child's welfare in a residential setting or a person providing in-home or out-of-home care.

The following data represents reports from out-of-home facilities licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services. The facilities included in the data are shelter care facilities, group care centers, residential treatment centers, and one intensive residential treatment center.

Shelter care facilities are group care centers providing short-term care for children often placed under emergency conditions. Care is provided for not more than 30 days unless an extension is granted.

Shelter care facilities licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services are as follows:

Children's Inn  
Spotted Tail Crisis Center  
Oglala Sioux Tribe Emergency Youth Shelter  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Emergency Shelter  
Lutheran Social Services Arise Shelter – East  
Lutheran Social Services Arise Shelter – West  
Wakanyeja Gluwitayan Otipi

Group care centers offer an inpatient structured setting for children. Group care centers staff to child ratios are one staff per eight children. The children in group care centers may see a therapist weekly, but their treatment focus is not psychiatric in nature.

Group care facilities licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services are as follows:

McCrossans Boys Ranch  
Wellfully  
Lutheran Social Services, New Beginnings Center  
Sacred Heart Center  
Sequel Youth Services, Falls Academy  
Sequel Youth Services, Transitional Academy

Residential treatment centers offer a psychiatric treatment setting with a focus on therapeutic intervention. Staffing ratios are one staff per six children and the centers offer a higher level of counseling than group care centers.

Residential treatment centers licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services are as follows:

Abbott House  
 Lutheran Social Services, Summit Oaks Center  
 Lutheran Social Services, Canyon Hills Center  
 Our Home Adolescent Sexual Adjustment Program  
 Our Home - Parkston  
 Sioux Falls Children's Home  
 Black Hills Children's Home  
 Wellfully

Intensive residential treatment centers provide the most structure, therapy, and care for children in residential setting. Staffing ratios are one staff per three children. These centers can only accept children for whom there is documentation the child cannot be treated or did not respond to treatment in a lower level of care like a residential treatment center. These children must also have documented history of mental health needs and/or a chronic history of high level physical or sexual aggression.

The intensive residential treatment center licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services is as follows:

Aurora Plains Academy

Type of Report for All Licensed Facilities	Out of Home Abuse and Neglect Report	Information Only Reports	Resource Complaints
Total FY2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)	173	231	6

#### Definitions of Types of Reports

- Out of Home Abuse and Neglect Reports:**  
 Reports received that are alleging abuse or neglect of a child(ren) by a staff member(s) in a facility. This includes but is not limited to restraints in which a child was injured or the lack of supervision by staff. These reports are either screened out, assigned for investigation, or referred to licensing.
- Information Only Reports:**  
 Reports received in which a situation/incident occurred with a child; however, there was no indication of abuse/neglect or non-compliance with licensing standards by staff. These reports include injuries from recreational activities and medical emergencies like appendicitis.
- Resource Complaints:**  
 Reports the licensed facility is not complying with licensing standards but do not contain any allegations or child abuse and/or neglect by the facility. These reports may include issues related to staff training or staff/child ratio. All resource complaints are forward to licensing staff.

Dispositions of Abuse/Neglect Reports	Assigned for Investigation	Referred to Licensing	Screened Out Reports
Total FY2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)	9	12	152

Definition of Dispositions:

- **Assigned for Investigation:**  
Out of Home Abuse/Neglect report assigned for investigation by the Department and/or law enforcement to assess allegations of abuse/neglect and make a determination regarding the allegations.
- **Referred to Licensing:**  
Out of Home Abuse/Neglect report referred to the licensing agency to follow up. These reports would include reports regarding compliance with licensing rules, such as employee training and staff/child ratio.
- **Screened Out Reports:**  
Out of Home Abuse/Neglect report is not assigned for further investigation, as the information contained in the report does not require additional investigation or follow up.