

Table 11-3. Risk and Other Factors Associated with Families Investigated for Child Abuse and Neglect, by Where Children Live

Risk factors as assessed by investigative caseworker. Each family could be associated with one or more risk factors.

	TOTAL	In-Home ^a	Out-of-Home ^a	b
PRIOR CPS INVOLVEMENT OR OTHER SERVICE HISTORY				
Prior reports of child maltreatment	60.0%	57.8%	72.3%	***
Prior investigation of child maltreatment	57.3%	55.1%	69.8%	***
Prior incident of substantiated child maltreatment	29.7%	27.1%	48.0%	***
Prior child welfare service history	30.4%	28.6%	42.3%	***
Caregiver was involved in non-CPS services (mental health, home visiting, public health nursing, or substance abuse treatment)	27.6%	27.2%	30.7%	
PARENTING CONCERNS				
Primary caregiver had poor parenting skills	19.5%	15.8%	45.9%	***
Parent had unrealistic expectations of child	9.9%	7.7%	26.0%	***
Primary caregiver used inappropriate or excessive discipline	5.1%	4.4%	10.3%	**
Primary caregiver described or acted toward child in predominately negative terms	3.9%	3.1%	9.9%	***
FAMILY AND CAREGIVER CHALLENGES				
High stress on the family (e.g., unemployment, drug use, poverty, or neighborhood violence)	50.5%	49.0%	60.3%	**
Low social support	24.8%	23.0%	35.8%	***
Family had trouble paying for basic needs (food, shelter, clothes, electricity, or heat)	23.8%	22.3%	35.8%	**
Active drug abuse by primary caregiver	10.5%	7.5%	31.8%	***
History of abuse or neglect of primary caregiver	20.6%	18.8%	30.9%	**
History of domestic violence against caregiver	27.7%	27.7%	30.0%	
Primary caregiver had serious mental health problem	14.4%	12.3%	29.8%	**
Primary caregiver had recent history of arrests	13.7%	11.9%	26.8%	**
Active domestic violence against caregiver	12.4%	11.9%	16.4%	
Active alcohol abuse by primary caregiver	4.6%	3.4%	13.5%	*
Primary caregiver had physical impairments	4.3%	3.7%	8.8%	
Primary caregiver had cognitive impairments	3.1%	2.5%	7.3%	***
Primary caregiver had very limited communication skills, such as a language barrier	3.0%	2.7%	5.7%	
CHILD CHALLENGES				
Child had poor ability to self-protect (children 5 and older)	32.2%	31.9%	36.0%	
Child had major special needs or behavioral problems	19.3%	17.9%	30.6%	***
Child was involved in any delinquent or chronic Child in need of services(CHINS) behavior (e.g., chronic runaway, truant, failure to obey parent or school authorities)	4.5%	3.6%	10.5%	**
PROTECTIVE FACTORS				
Reasonable level of caregiver cooperation	91.7%	93.3%	82.5%	***
Another supportive caregiver present in the home	54.9%	56.3%	47.7%	*

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service on August 22, 2012. Data remain most current available and are thus included in the 2014 version of the House Ways and Means Green Book. Based on tabulations of National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) II baseline data received from HHS, ACF, Office of Planning Research and Evaluation (OPRE). NSCAW II is a national survey of more than 5,000 children in families that were investigated for child abuse or neglect between February 2008 and April 2009.

a. "In-home" children were living with the family investigated for abuse or neglect approximately four months after the investigation; "out-of-home" children were living informally with kin caregivers or in a foster care (kin or non-kin family home or group setting) as of that time.

b. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences were found when comparing risk factors between children living in home and those living out of home. One asterisk indicates that the probability (*p*) that the difference would occur randomly is less than 5%; two asterisks means that chance is less than 1%, and three asterisks less than 0.1% (i.e., * *p* < .05; ** *p* < .01; *** *p* < .001).