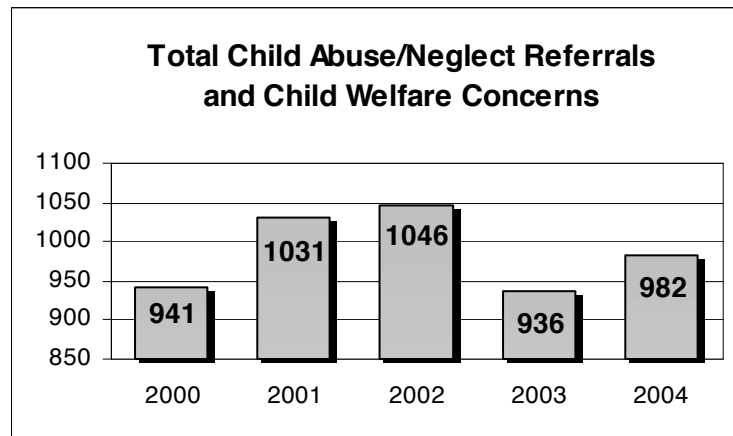


## Child Welfare in Wood County



### Key Facts

- Statewide, just 19.8% of all abuse and neglect reports were substantiated in 2003, continuing a 7-year trend of declining substantiation rates in Wisconsin.
- The largest number of substantiated reports in 2003 for Wisconsin were for sexual abuse. The largest number of victims of sexual abuse are between 12-17 years of age.
- There were 2,533 alleged incidents of sexual abuse for males and 6,689 alleged incidents for females in Wisconsin in 2003.
- 74% of maltreaters were primary caregivers.

### Why is this Information Important?

The social problem of child maltreatment in our society presents many challenges. The long-term impact of abuse and neglect greatly reduces the quality of life for our children and the entire society.

### Child Abuse and Neglect

The safety of Wood County's children is the responsibility of all residents. While state law requires certain individuals who work with children to report suspected abuse, any concerned individual can make a referral to Wood County Department of Social Services or a local law enforcement agency.

All children deserve to be safe and to have a basic level of care. When this does not occur, intervention by a social service and a law enforcement agency is necessary. The investigation identifies families who require support and services to assure child safety and care. The protective services system promotes the well being of children in their own home setting whenever possible. Wood County Social Services partners with private and public services to provide a team approach for serving children.

*Sources: Wood County Department of Social Services; Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Child Abuse and Neglect Report 2003*