

Office of Training Investigations and Safety (OTIS) Child Abuse Investigations in Oregon Schools

Senate Committee on Human Services
February 1, 2023

Dave Manley, OTIS Interim Director

Child abuse investigations changed in 2019



 In 2019 Senate Bill 155 became law and changed the landscape on how child abuse investigations were conducted.



The law directed ODHS to conduct child abuse investigations in schools when school employees, contractors, agents and volunteers were identified as the perpetrators of the abuse.

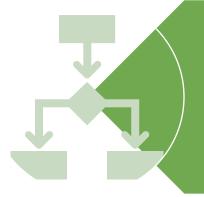


 OTIS began conducting child investigations in schools Jan. 1, 2020.

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) sends report of abuse in schools to OTIS



Screeners review the report from ORCAH and may follow up by contacting the school for more information, positively identify the student, school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer.



OTIS screener then thoroughly reviews all available information to determine if an investigation is required, or if the report should be closed at screening.

Notifications sent when either a case is closed or assigned



The school superintendent



The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) if a licensed teacher is involved



The Oregon Department of Education (ODE)



Law Enforcement



The individual who made the initial report

Once a report is assigned to OTIS



Work closely with law enforcement if a crime has been committed



Coordinate with other agencies (Child Welfare, TSPC)



Conduct interviews with victims, students in a trauma informed approach in collaboration with law enforcement if appropriate

Use local child abuse assessment centers to conduct victim interviews



Gather available records, reports, and other documentation as evidence



Investigations are required to be completed within 60 days, but extensions are available if needed



OTIS investigator

will

Investigator findings



Founded: There is reasonable cause to believe child abuse occurred



Unfounded: There is not evidence to believe child abuse has occurred.



Unable to Determine: If critical information is missing or there is conflicting information and reasonable cause cannot be determined

Notifications on findings



The school superintendent



The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) if a licensed teacher is involved



The Oregon Department of Education (ODE)



Law Enforcement



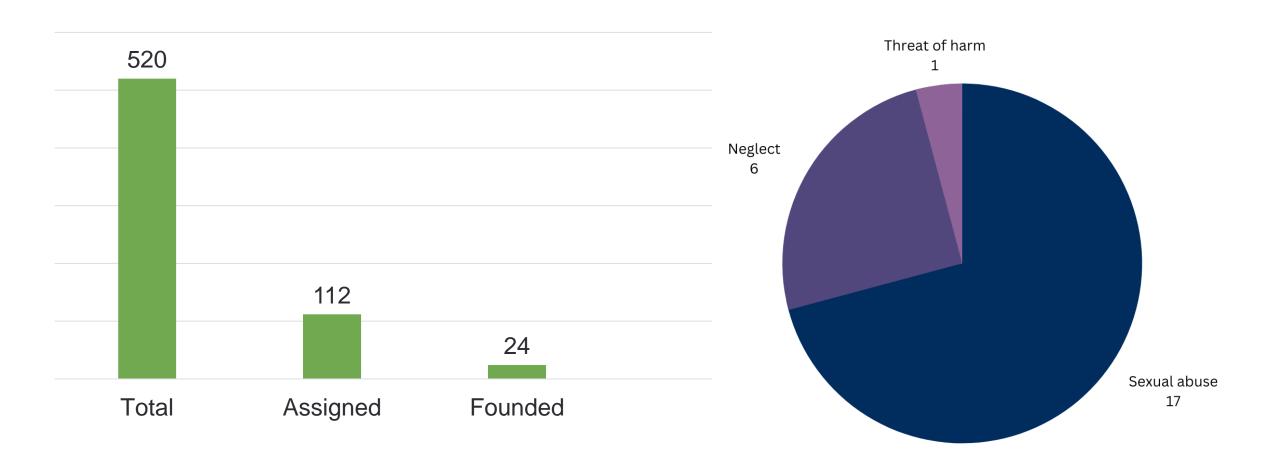
The individual who made the initial report



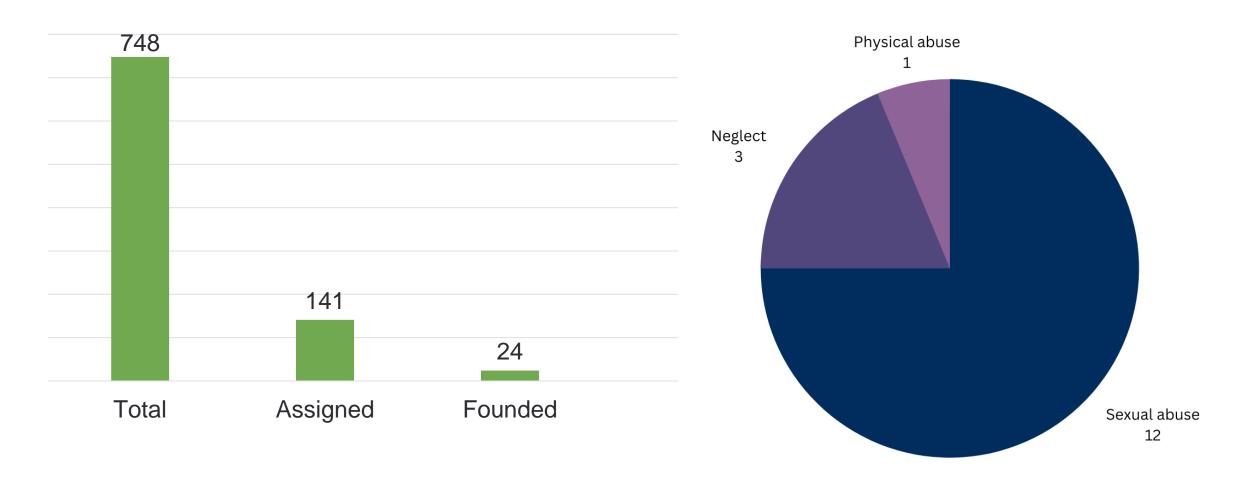
Due Process

Individuals who have received a founded disposition of child abuse have the right to appeal this decision.
OTIS uses a contested case hearing process with the Office of Administrative Hearings for child abuse cases.

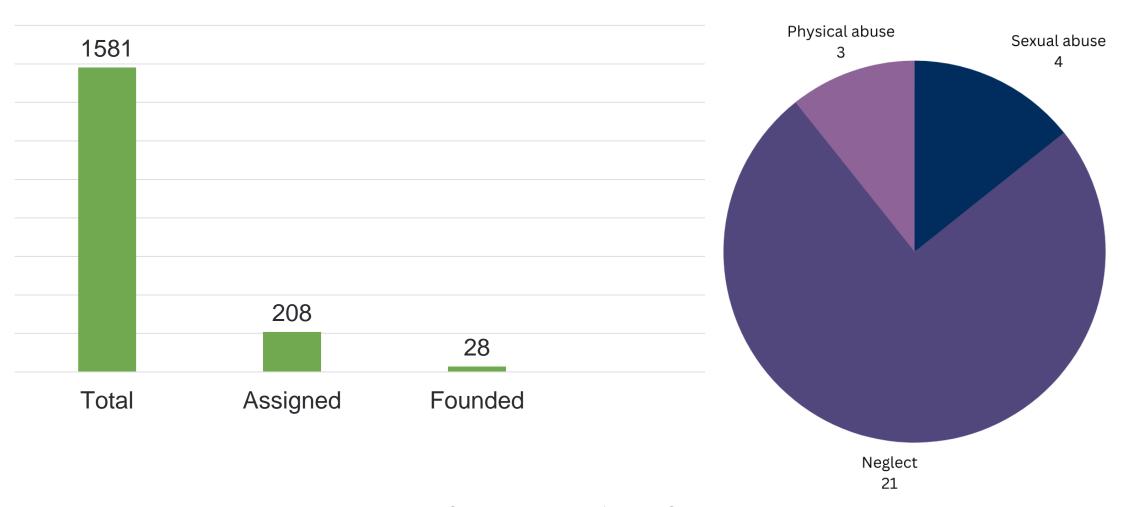
School allegations reported in 2020



School allegations reported in 2021



School allegations reported in 2022



School allegations reported in 2023, year to date

