

# Increase in child deaths from neglect and abuse

SALEM (AP) — Children with broken bones, bruised bodies and blood flooding their skulls are nothing new to Mary Steinberg, a pediatrician at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Steinberg is among child welfare officials who want to know why a record number of Oregon children are dying from neglect and abuse.

In 1994, 33 children died from maltreatment or neglect compared with 11 deaths by those causes in 1993, according to a study released Tuesday by the state Children's Services Division.

"I've rolled their bodies over and seen the bruises on their backs," Steinberg said.

"Last year, a whole classroom of children died of abuse and neglect. As citizens in Oregon we can do better than that," she said.

An effort by CSD officials, other child welfare agencies and lawmakers is under way to improve the state's child death tracking system. Hopes are to use the data to create abuse and neglect prevention programs.

"Information about the context in which these deaths occur is very important," said Ben De Haan, director of the Partnership for Child Welfare Research at Portland State University and author of the study.

"We need to do more research," he said.

Rep. John Minnis, R-Troutdale, has introduced HB2592, which would require the Health Division to create a statewide tracking system to review child fatalities.

Minnis said the estimated \$180,000 to \$750,000 cost would be funded from traffic tickets, felony and misdemeanor convictions and general funds.

"How much is life worth?" Minnis said. "This is one program where we can save lives. The expense is very well justified, the need is very well there."

Minnis said the state's child fatality review system is one of the best in the country. There are inconsistencies, however, in the way deaths are classified and reported, he said.

The study looked at 1,800 deaths of children 17 and under in 1991-93.

De Haan said that while total child fatalities in Oregon have declined, the number from abuse and neglect has risen.

The study showed that a growing number of deaths involve drug and alcohol abuse by parents.

Parents who kill their children are usually older than 21 but were likely to be teens when their children were born.

"The poor kids are more likely to die across all categories," De Haan said.

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# 1994 Discrimination Grievance Statistics

Under the discrimination and sexual harassment grievance procedures contained in Oregon Administrative Rule 571-03-025(8)(a), the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity is required to issue a statistical report of the number and kinds of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints received and how they were resolved. The following tables summarize this information for total discrimination grievances and for sexual harassment grievances received by the office in 1994. For confidential information regarding discrimination and sexual harassment grievance procedures or to obtain a discrimination grievance procedures pamphlet, please contact the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity, 474 Oregon Hall, 346-3123, Kenneth F. Lehrman, III, Director, Mark Zunich, Human Rights Investigator.

### Total Discrimination Grievances

filed with the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity  
January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994

Formal	Results
14	Eight claims of disability discrimination; four claims of sexual harassment; four claims of gender discrimination; three claims of retaliation; two claims of racial discrimination; and one claim of discrimination based on veteran status. <sup>1</sup>
Informal	Results
24	Fifteen claims of sexual harassment; six claims of gender discrimination; three claims of disability discrimination; two claims of stalking; two claims of assault; one claim of national origin discrimination; one claim of racial discrimination; one claim of sexual assault; one claim of marital status discrimination; and one claim of retaliation. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Number of claims does not correspond to totals column because some cases contain multiple claims.

### Sexual Harassment Grievances

filed with the Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity  
January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994

Formal	Results
4	No findings of sexual harassment in two claims brought against faculty, one claim brought against student employee and one claim brought against university contractor. Improper conduct not rising to the level of sexual harassment but resulting in remedial action found in three of the cases.
Informal	Results
15	Five claims resolved informally; three claims where no action was requested by grievant; three claims resolved by informal inquiry; two claims with anonymous report against faculty member - no action taken; one claim in which grievant subsequently filed a formal grievance; one claim against a student referred to Student Conduct Coordinator.

Note: Sexual harassment grievances are also included in the total discrimination grievances table.

### FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REGARDING DISCRIMINATION OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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OREGON BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES (BOLI) 165 East 7th Street, Room 220, Eugene Oregon 97401	(503) 686-7623
<b>FEDERAL AGENCY REFERRAL</b>	
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC) Federal Office Building, 909 First Avenue, Suite 400 Seattle, WA 98104	(800) 669-4000
OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS (OFCCP), US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Suite 1020, Columbia Square Building, 111 SW Columbia St., Portland, OR 97201	(503) 326-4112
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