Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Alabama had 28,748 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,121 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 12,158 child victims of abuse or neglect in Alabama in 2018, at a rate of 11.2 children per 1,000. This translates to an 39.8% increase since 2013.²

Of the 12,158 children, 10,043 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,025 of the 12,158 cases.⁴

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Alabama reported 533 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹
- Alabama reported 188 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 28 in 2017 to 43 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xi}

Alabama reported 1 total child victims of sex trafficking with 1 female and 0 males.\textsuperscript{xii}

8,646 victims received postresponse services while 8,456 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 9,512 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 5,930 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 4,062 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 3,582 exited during the same year.
- 712 of Alabama’s children were adopted while 1,346 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 5.3\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 41.2\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

355 children in Alabama aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 331 in 2016 and represents an 6.7\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 17.8 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Alabama for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 32.5 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 8.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.7 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 3,510 children in foster care within Alabama were living with non-relatives while 680 stayed with a relative.

- 1,060 children were staying in group homes while 45 children were classified as runaways.xxii

- 7% of households in Alabama in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiii

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 5.5 months.xxiv

### Child Poverty

Alabama had 336,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 31% of all children.xxv

24% of Alabama’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 22,172 in 2017 to 19,008 in 2018. This represents a 14.27% decrease.xxvii

The state spent $61,157,711 on WIC in 2019, serving 115,410 people. This represents a 4.3% decrease in total participants and a 6.4% decrease in spending. xxviii

795,760 people in Alabama were food insecure in 2017, including 243,880 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

47.6% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Alabama in 2017 had children.xxx
Health

Alabama had 6,038 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 10.3% of infants born in Alabama in 2017. \[\text{xxx}i\]

Alabama had a total of 7024 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.8% of all white babies were born premature while 16.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 12.4%. \[\text{xxxii}\]

There were 4,241 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Alabama in 2017, representing a rate of 27 in every 1,000 teen girls. \[\text{xxxiii}\]

434 infants under 1 died in Alabama in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.4 per 1,000. \[\text{xxxiv}\]

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 4% of Alabama’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 41,000 children. Alabama is not a Medicaid expansion state. \[\text{xxxvi}\]

- 538,567 children in Alabama were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 10% decrease from 2017. \[\text{xxxvii}\]

- 222,072 children in Alabama were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 1% increase from 2017. \[\text{xxxviii}\]
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 3,578 total arrests for children under 18 in Alabama in 2018.
- 250 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 959 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 130 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 804 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama in 2017. This is a decrease from 849 kids in 2015, representing a 5.3% decline.xli

Teens & Youth
- 24,000 (9%) of Alabama’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xlii
- In 2017, there were 16 reports of children in Alabama aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xliii
- 84 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alabama in 2017.xliii

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Alabama spent $67,172,306 on child welfare services in 2016. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $67,172,306 were allocated from the federal government and $0 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $67,172,306 in federal funding received in Alabama in 2016: xlv
  - $10,591,739 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $9,870,781 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
  - Alabama’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $26,436,817.xlvii


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


Alabama’s Children 2020


