Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Arizona had 83,801 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,526 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 15,504 child victims of abuse or neglect in Arizona in 2018, at a rate of 9.4 children per 1,000. This translates to an 11.7% increase since 2013.²

Of the 15,504 children, 12,469 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 4,043 of the 15,504 cases.⁴

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Multiple Race
- Unknown

8% of Arizona’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.⁷

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- Neglect Only
- Physical Abuse Only
- Sexual Abuse Only
- Multiple Maltreatment Types

89% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 11% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Arizona reported 495 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹

- Arizona reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
• Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 35 in 2017 to 48 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xii}

• Arizona reported no number for child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xiii}

• 16,000 victims received postresponse services while 52,716 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 23,909 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.

• 13,360 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.

• 9,173 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 10,549 exited during the same year.

• 3,926 of Arizona’s children were adopted while 4,216 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{\textit{xv}}

There was a 11.1\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased 8.6\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{\textit{xvi}}

933 children in Arizona aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 954 in 2016 and represents an 2.2\% decrease.\textsuperscript{\textit{xvii}}

• Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 25.9 months in care.\textsuperscript{\textit{xviii}}

• The average length of stay in Arizona for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 25.0 months.\textsuperscript{\textit{xix}}

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.7 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}

• The average age of adopted children was 6.0 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 5,494 children in foster care within Arizona were living with non-relatives while 6,603 stayed with a relative.

- 2,173 children were staying in group homes while 275 children were classified as runaways.
- 4% of households in Arizona in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.
- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.1 months.

**Child Poverty**

Arizona had 469,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 29% of all children.

32% of Arizona’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 18,263 in 2017 to 15,441 in 2018. This represents a 15.4% decrease.

The state spent $60,774,251 on WIC in 2019, serving 141,959 people. This represents a 5% decrease in total participants and a 12.2% decrease in spending.

979,170 people in Arizona were food insecure in 2017, including 348,550 children who struggled with hunger.

45.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Arizona in 2017 had children.
Health

Arizona had 6,119 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.5% of infants born in Arizona in 2017.\(^{\text{xxxix}}\)

Arizona had a total of 7,673 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.8% of all white babies were born premature while 12.6% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.5%.\(^{\text{xlv}}\)

There were 5,025 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Arizona in 2017, representing a rate of 22 in every 1,000 teen girls.\(^{\text{xlviii}}\)

469 infants under 1 died in Arizona in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.4 per 1,000.\(^{\text{xlix}}\)

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 8.4% of Arizona’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 146,000 children. Arizona is a Medicaid expansion state.\(^{\text{lxxxvi}}\)

- 887,183 children in Arizona were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 1.7% decrease from 2017.\(^{\text{lxxxvii}}\)

- 127,063 children in Arizona were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 10.1% increase from 2017.\(^{\text{lxxxviii}}\)
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 20,478 total arrests for children under 18 in Arizona in 2018.
- 1,424 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,298 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 3,239 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 531 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona in 2017. This is a decrease from 717 kids in 2015, representing a 25.9% decline.xi

Teens & Youth
- 31,000 (8%) of Arizona’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xli
- In 2017, there were 16 reports of children in Arizona aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 62 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlii
- 77 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arizona in 2017.xlii

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Arizona spent $448,413,973 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.
- $51,943,533 were allocated from the federal government and $870,050,731 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $448,413,973 in federal funding received in Arizona in 2016: xlv
  - $114,491,039 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $125,473,168 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
- Arizona’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $48,705,872.xlvii


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xv Ibid.

xxv Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


