Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Arkansas had **59,879** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **35,526** were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were **8,538** child victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas in 2018, at a rate of **12.1** children per 1,000. This translates to an **4.8%** decrease since 2013.\(^2\)

Of the **8,538** children, **7,115** were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **1,855** of the **8,538** cases.\(^4\)

- **67%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **33%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^6\)
- **53%** of Arkansas’s child victims in 2017 were female while **47%** were male.\(^7\)

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- **Neglect Only**: 38%
- **Physical Abuse Only**: 23%
- **Multiple Maltreatment Types**: 20%
- **Sexual Abuse Only**: 19%

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, Arkansas reported **495** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^9\)
- Arkansas reported **0** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **7,811** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **4,234** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **3,123** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **3,578** exited during the same year.
- **1,001** of Arkansas’s children were adopted while **1,351** were waiting to be adopted.\(^{xv}\)

There was a **11.3%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system increased **3.1%** from 2017.\(^{xvi}\)

**240** children in Arkansas aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from **202** in 2016 and represents an **15.8%** increase.\(^{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **25.8** months in care.\(^{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Arkansas for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **31.9** months.\(^{xix}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **8.1** years old.\(^{xx}\)
- The average age of adopted children was **5.4** years old.\(^{xxi}\)
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 2,255 children in foster care within Arkansas were living with non-relatives while 1,146 stayed with a relative.

- 835 children were staying in group homes while 29 children were classified as runaways.\footnote{xxii}

- 4\% of households in Arkansas in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.\footnote{xxiii}

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 4.8 months.\footnote{xxiv}

Child Poverty
Arkansas had 201,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 30\% of all children.\footnote{xxv}

24\% of Arkansas’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\footnote{xxvi}

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 7,149 in 2017 to 6,437 in 2018. This represents a 9.9\% decrease.\footnote{xxvii}

The state spent $32,368,194 on WIC in 2019, serving 67,231 people. This represents an 8.6\% decrease in total participants and a 15.8\% decrease in spending.\footnote{xxviii}

518,960 people in Arkansas were food insecure in 2017, including 167,440 children who struggled with hunger.\footnote{xxix}

50.2\% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Arkansas in 2017 had children.\footnote{xxx}
Health
Arkansas had 3,477 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.3% of infants born in Arkansas in 2017. xxxi

Arkansas had a total of 4,299 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.4% of all white babies were born premature while 16.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 11.6%. xxxii

There were 3,178 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Arkansas in 2017, representing a rate of 33 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

307 infants under 1 died in Arkansas in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 8.2 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 4.5% of Arkansas’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 34,000 children. Arkansas is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxvi
- 413,369 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 9.9% decrease from 2017. xxxvii
- 98,127 children in Arkansas were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 31.6% decrease from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 7,697 total arrests for children under 18 in Arkansas in 2018.
- 579 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,423 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 925 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 585 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas in 2017. This is an increase from 555 kids in 2015, representing a 5.4% incline.xl

Teens & Youth
- 14,000 (8%) of Arkansas’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xli
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Arkansas aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 42 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlii
- 59 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2017.xliii

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Arkansas spent $92,804,224 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.
- $92,804,224 were allocated from the federal government and $62,120,943 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $92,804,224 in federal funding received in Arkansas in 2016: xlv
  - $6,981,304 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $20,300,861 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
- Arkansas’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $13,329,392.xlvii
Arkansas’s Children 2020


Ibid.


Ibid.


