Child Maltreatment

In 2018, California had 408,666 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 233,409 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 63,795 child victims of abuse or neglect in California in 2018, at a rate of 7.1 children per 1,000. This translates to an 15% decrease since 2013.²

Of the 63,795 children, 50,619 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 10,229 of the 63,795 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 87% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 13% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

- 51% of California’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, California reported 1,187 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹

- California reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 147 in 2017 to 132 in 2018.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{i}

California reported 56 total child victims of sex trafficking with 54 females and 2 males.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{ii}

57,495 victims received postresponse services while 242,832 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{iii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 78,215 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 52,337 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 27,178 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 25,879 exited during the same year.
- 6,966 of California’s children were adopted while 14,866 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{v}

There was a 0.9\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 6.7\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{vi}

3,677 children in California aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 4,013 in 2016 and represents an 8.3\% decrease.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{vii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 32.1 months in care.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{viii}
- The average length of stay in California for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 28.6 months.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{ix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 5.6 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.0 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 25,318 children in foster care within California were living with non-relatives while 17,531 stayed with a relative.

4,714 children were staying in group homes while 783 children were classified as runaways.

6% of households in California 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 13 months.

**Child Poverty**

California had 2,661,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 29% of all children.

43% of California’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 877,583 in 2017 to 791,621 in 2018. This represents a 9.7% decrease.

The state spent $491,567,195 on WIC in 2019, serving 929,173 people. This represents a 7.9% decrease in total participants and a 6.3% decrease in spending.

4,354,400 people in California were food insecure in 2017, including 1,638,430 children who struggled with hunger.

51.6% of households receiving SNAP benefits in California in 2017 had children.
Health

California had 32,451 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.9% of infants born in California in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

California had a total of 39,964 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 7.6% of all white babies were born premature while 12.3% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 8.7%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 18,935 births to mothers aged 15-19 in California in 2017, representing a rate of 15 in every 1,000 teen girls. \textsuperscript{xxxiii}

1973 infants under 1 died in California in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.2 per 1,000. \textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 3.1% of California’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 29,000 children. California is a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}
- 4,671,066 children in California were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 3.4% decrease from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}
- 1,976,284 children in California were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 2.5% decrease from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxviii}
Juvenile Justice System

- There were **42,958** total arrests for children under 18 in California in 2018.
- **1,007** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **7,484** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **2,967** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- **5,463** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in California in 2017. This is a decrease from **6,726** kids in 2015, representing a **18.7%** decline.

 Teens & Youth

- **142,000** (7%) of California’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were **39** reports of children in California aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **187** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- **234** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in California in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- California spent **$4,437,884,139** 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.
- **$2,505,154,248** were allocated from the federal government and **$1,932,729,891** came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- **Title IV-E**
- **Title IV-B**
- **TANF**
- **SSBG**
- Medicaid
- Other Sources

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- The breakdown of the **$2,505,154,248** in federal funding received in California in 2016:
  - **$540,189,540** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - **$458,341,005** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - California’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **$556,020,307**.


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


