Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Colorado had 103,288 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,187 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 11,879 child victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado in 2018, at a rate of 9.4 children per 1,000. This translates to an 19% increase since 2013.²

Of the 11,879 children, 8,687 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,839 of the 11,879 cases.⁴

73% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 27% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

51% of Colorado’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Colorado reported 31 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷

- Colorado reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- African American - 39%
- Hispanic - 45%
- Multiple Race - 5%
- White - 10%
- Unknown - 1%

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- Neglect Only - 52%
- Physical Abuse Only - 40%
- Sexual Abuse Only - 4%
- Multiple Maltreatment Types - 4%
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **10,283** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **5,542** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **4,785** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **4,741** exited during the same year.
- **910** of Colorado’s children were adopted while **997** were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a **2.8%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased **4%** from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

**231** children in Colorado aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from **226** in 2016 and represents an **2.6%** increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **26.0** months in care. \textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Colorado for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **30.4** months. \textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **7.4** years old. \textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was **5.0** years old. \textsuperscript{xxi}

\textsuperscript{xv iv}
Data from 2017 shows that 2,412 children in foster care within Colorado were living with non-relatives while 1,382 stayed with a relative.

1,590 children were staying in group homes while 90 children were classified as runaways.

3% of households in Colorado 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 6 months.

Child Poverty
Colorado had 286,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 23% of all children.

31% of Colorado’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 43,103 in 2017 to 37,483 in 2018. This represents a 13.03% decrease.

The state spent $36,121,468 on WIC in 2019, serving 81,906 people. This represents a 3.93% decrease in total participants and a 4.4% decrease in spending.

596,150 people in Colorado were food insecure in 2017, including 177,360 children who struggled with hunger.

42.6% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Colorado in 2017 had children.
Health
Colorado had 5,848 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.1% of infants born in Colorado in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxi}

Colorado had a total of 5,795 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.7% of all white babies were born premature while 10.6% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.2%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 2,790 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Colorado in 2017, representing a rate of 16 in every 1,000 teen girls. \textsuperscript{xxiii}

291 infants under 1 died in Colorado in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.5 per 1,000. \textsuperscript{xxxiv}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{preterm_births.png}
\caption{Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018}
\end{figure}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{health_coverage.png}
\caption{Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018}
\end{figure}

- 4.6% of Colorado’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 62,000 children. Colorado is a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

- 495,130 children in Colorado were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 2.4% decrease from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}

- 182,199 children in Colorado were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 3.2% increase from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxviii}
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 17,906 total arrests for children under 18 in Colorado in 2018.
- 1,762 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,161 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,257 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 993 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado in 2017. This is a decrease from 999 kids in 2015, representing a 0.6% decline.xi

Teens & Youth

- 16,000 (5%) of Colorado’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xli
- In 2017, there were 23 reports of children in Colorado aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 76 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlii
- 60 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Colorado in 2017.xliii

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Colorado spent $367,327,337 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.
- $126,163,189 were allocated from the federal government and $241,164,147 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E 3%
- Title IV-B 19%
- TANF 6%
- SSBG 0%
- Medicaid 0%
- Other Sources 72%

- The breakdown of the $126,163,189 in federal funding received in Colorado in 2016: xlv
  - $20,597,696 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $16,306,443 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
- Colorado’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $26,795,988.xlvii


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


x xa Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


