Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Connecticut had 43,091 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 15,701 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 7,652 child victims of abuse or neglect in Connecticut in 2018, at a rate of 10.4 children per 1,000. This translates to an 0% increase since 2013.²

Of the 7,652 children, 5,369 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,016 of the 7,652 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018
- 72% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 23% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 51% of Connecticut’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.⁶

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018
- African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Multiple Race
- Unknown

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, Connecticut reported 5 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- Connecticut reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Connecticut’s Children

Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 11 in 2017 to 8 in 2018.xi

Connecticut reported 3 total child victims of sex trafficking with 3 females and 0 males.xii

7,946 victims received postresponse services while 13,524 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 5,785 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 4,225 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 2,073 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 1,560 exited during the same year.
- 497 of Connecticut’s children were adopted while 1,235 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 2.18% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 1.84% from 2017.xvi

24.3% Decrease since 2016 in children aging out of foster care

84 children in Connecticut aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 111 in 2016 and represents an 24.3% decrease.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 29.2 months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in Connecticut for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 33.4 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.2 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 5.4 years old.xxi

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 1,740 children in foster care within Connecticut were living with non-relatives while 1,497 stayed with a relative.

- 1,403 children were staying in group homes while no number was reported for children were classified as runaways.xxii

- 3% of households in Connecticut 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 10 months.xxiv

Child Poverty

Connecticut had 195,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.xxv

35% of Connecticut’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 19,617 in 2017 to 23,554 in 2018. This represents a 20.06% increase.xxvii

The state spent $24,461,585 on WIC in 2019, serving 45,767 people. This represents a 3.2% decrease in total participants and a 1.0% decrease in spending.xxviii

406,810 people in Connecticut were food insecure in 2017, including 115,240 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

31.5% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Connecticut in 2017 had children.xxx
Health
Connecticut had 2,845 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.1% of infants born in Connecticut in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxi}

Connecticut had a total of 3,251 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.1% of all white babies were born premature while 13.2% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.3%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 1,053 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Connecticut in 2017, representing a rate of 9 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxiii}

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

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

\begin{itemize}
  \item 2.6\% of Connecticut’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 20,000 children. Connecticut is a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}
  \item 351,703 children in Connecticut were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents .75\% increase from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}
  \item 28,900 children in Connecticut were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an .04\% increase from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxviii}
\end{itemize}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 7,106 total arrests for children under 18 in Connecticut in 2018.
- 1,460 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,359 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 279 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 99 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut in 2017. This is a decrease from 141 kids in 2015, representing a 29.7% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 10,000 (5%) of Connecticut’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Connecticut aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 24 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 15 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Connecticut in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Connecticut spent $772,872,248 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.
- $303,400,169 were allocated from the federal government and $469,472,079 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $303,400,169 in federal funding received in Connecticut in 2016:
  - $40,386,049 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $26,082,001 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Connecticut’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $43,490,889.


 Connecticut’s Children


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


