In 2018, Delaware had 17,784 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,815 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 1,251 child victims of abuse or neglect in Delaware in 2018, at a rate of 6.1 children per 1,000. This translates to an 15.6\% decrease since 2013.\(^ii\)

Of the 1,251 children, 993 were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 128 of the 1,251 cases.\(^iv\)

\(^\text{v}\) 83\% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 17\% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^vi\)

\(^\text{vii}\) 51\% of Delaware’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49\% were male.

\(^\text{viii}\) Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Delaware reported 1 infant who was screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^ix\)

- Delaware reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
• Child fatalities remained constant between the years of 2018 and 2017 at 4 each year.

• Delaware did not report any numbers regarding child victims of sex trafficking.

• 345 victims received postresponse services while 906 non-victims received postresponse services as well.

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 1,089 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.

• 719 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.

• 406 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 370 exited during the same year.

• 116 of Delaware’s children were adopted while 252 were waiting to be adopted.

There was an 8.6% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system increased 7.4% from 2017.

53 children in Delaware aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 54 in 2016 and represents an 1.8% decrease.

• Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 27.5 months in care.

• The average length of stay in Delaware for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 27.5 months.

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.5 years old.

• The average age of adopted children was 4.9 years old.
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- **With a Relative Foster Parent**: 1%
- **With a Non-Relative Foster Parent**: 16%
- **In a Group Home**: 70%
- **Unaccounted for/Runaway**: 13%

Data from 2017 shows that 527 children in foster care within Delaware were living with non-relatives while 100 stayed with a relative.

- **118** children were staying in group homes while **4** children were classified as runaways.

- **4%** of households in Delaware 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 **7.7 months**.

**Child Poverty**

Delaware had **60,000** children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **29%** of all children.

29% of Delaware’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **11,213** in 2017 to **10,464** in 2018. This represents a **6.6%** decrease.

The state spent **$7,091,517** on WIC in 2019, serving **16,358** people. This represents a **2.6%** decrease in total participants and a **1.85%** decrease in spending.

117,320 people in Delaware were food insecure in 2017, including **34,750 children** who struggled with hunger.

45.2% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Delaware in 2017 had children.
Health
Delaware had 981 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.0% of infants born in Delaware in 2017. xxxi

Delaware had a total of 1,015 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.7% of all white babies were born premature while 12.9% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.5%. xxxii

There were 552 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Delaware in 2017, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

72 infants under 1 died in Delaware in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.6 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 3.6% of Delaware’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 8,000 children. Delaware is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxvi
- 108,522 children in Delaware were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 1.2% increase from 2017. xxxvii
- 13,958 children in Delaware were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an .49% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,851 total arrests for children under 18 in Delaware in 2018.
- 228 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 547 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 279 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 129 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware in 2017. This is a decrease from 162 kids in 2015, representing a 20.3% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 3,000 (6%) of Delaware’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Delaware aged 10-14 committing suicide, and no reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 13 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Delaware in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Delaware spent $67,401,536 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.
- $11,478,270 were allocated from the federal government and $55,923,266 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $11,478,270 in federal funding received in Delaware in 2016:
  - $4,602,977 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $16,306,443 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Delaware’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $4,583,674.


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


