Child Maltreatment
In 2018, the District of Columbia had 16,567 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 7,360 were referred for investigation.

There were 1,699 child victims of maltreatment in the District of Columbia in 2018, at a rate of 13.3 children per 1,000. This translates to an 11.2% increase since 2014.

Of the 1,699 children, 1,169 were first time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 181 of the 1,699 cases.

- 94% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 6% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 52% of the District of Columbia’s child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 79% Neglect Only
- 11% Physical Abuse Only
- 7% Multiple Maltreatment Types
- 3% Sexual Abuse Only

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, the District of Columbia had 29 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- The District of Columbia reported 24 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- African American: 70%
- Hispanic: 14%
- Multiple Race: 0.2%
- White: 16%
- Unknown: 0.2%
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 4 in 2017 to 5 in 2018.xi

The District of Columbia reported 23 total child victims of sex trafficking with 21 females and 2 males.xii

358 victims received postresponse services while 600 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 1,068 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 707 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 336 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 361 exited during the same year.
- 100 of the District of Columbia’s children were adopted while 181 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 5.9% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 9.9% from 2017.xvi

70 children in the District of Columbia aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is the same number as in 2016 and does not represent a change.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 24.9 months in care.xviii
- The average length of stay in the District of Columbia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 37.5 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.7 years old.xxx
- The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.xxi
Data from 2017 shows that 383 children in foster care within the District were living with non-relatives while 151 stayed with a relative. xxii

56 children were staying in group homes while 8 children were classified as runaways.xxiii

3% of households in the District of Columbia in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 9.4 months.xxv

Child Poverty

The District of Columbia had 52,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 42% of all children.xxvi

39% of the District’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 10,628 in 2017 to 13,225 in 2018. This represents a 24% increase.xxviii

The state spent $6,144,112 on WIC in 2019, serving 11,844 people. This represents a 5% decrease in total participants and a 1.2% increase in spending. xxix

76,550 people in the District of Columbia were food insecure in 2017, including 26,450 children who struggled with hunger.xxx

29.4% of households in the District that received SNAP benefits in 2017 had children.xxxi
Health
The District of Columbia had 1,001 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 10.5% of infants born in the District in 2017.xxxii

The District of Columbia had a total of 930 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 6.3% of all white babies were born premature while 13.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.1% xxxiii

There were 408 births to mothers aged 15-19 in the District in 2017, representing a rate of 21 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

77 infants under 1 died in the District in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 8.1 per 1,000. xxxv

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- 14% White
- 21% Black
- 65% Hispanic

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 16% Medicaid
- 2% CHIP
- 82% Uninsured

- 1.8% of the District's children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 2,000 children. The District of Columbia has accepted Medicaid expansion.xxxvii

- 84,590 children in the District were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 1.4% decrease from 2017. xxxviii

- 16,125 children in the District were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 37% increase from 2017. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
• There were 505 total arrests for children under 18 in the District of Columbia in 2018.
• 53 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
• 34 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
• 10 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
• 93 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in the District of Columbia in 2017. This is a decrease from 105 kids in 2015, representing a 11.4% decline.

Teens & Youth
• 2,000 (8%) of the District of Columbia’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
• In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in the District aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 0 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
• 11 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in the District in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
• The District of Columbia spent $242,356,702 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.
• $84,067,539 were allocated from the federal government and $158,289,163 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 1%
- Title IV-B: 1%
- Medicaid: 2%
- Other Sources: 96%

• The breakdown of the $84,067,539 in federal funding received in the District in 2016.
• $27,076,858 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
• $11,531,422 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
• The District of Columbia’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $7,396,935.


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


xxvii Ibid.


xxxi Ibid.


