Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Georgia had 126,013 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 87,589 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 11,090 child victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia in 2018, at a rate of 4.4 children per 1,000. This translates to a 50% decrease since 2013.²

Of the 11,090 children, 9,131 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,420 of the 11,090 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 83% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 17% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

- 50% of Georgia’s child victims in 2017 were female while 50% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Georgia reported 2,329 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹

- Georgia reported 1,404 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 94 in 2017 to 86 in 2018.\(^{\text{xii}}\)

Georgia reported 40 total child victims of sex trafficking with 34 female and 6 males.\(^{\text{xii}}\)

8,548 victims received postresponse services while 109,292 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\(^{\text{xiii}}\)

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **21,050** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **13,793** were in care on the day of September 30\(^{\text{th}}\) 2018.
- **8,082** children entered care during the 2018 FY while 7,257 exited during the same year.
- **1,469** of Georgia’s children were adopted while 3,633 were waiting to be adopted.\(^{\text{xv}}\)

There was a **4.9\%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased **4.8\%** from 2017.\(^{\text{xvi}}\)

598 children in Georgia aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 534 in 2016 and represents an **11.9\%** increase.\(^{\text{xvii}}\)

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **34.2** months in care.\(^{\text{xviii}}\)
- The average length of stay in Georgia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **32.4** months.\(^{\text{xix}}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **7.9** years old.\(^{\text{xx}}\)
- The average age of adopted children was **5.9** years old.\(^{\text{xxi}}\)
Data from 2017 shows that 7,233 children in foster care within Georgia were living with non-relatives while 4,008 stayed with a relative.

- 1,601 children were staying in group homes while 81 children were classified as runaways.xxxii

- 5% of households in Georgia in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxxiii

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.2 months.xxxiv

**Child Poverty**

Georgia had 689,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children.xxxv

- 30% of Georgia’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 17,133 in 2017 to 21,151 in 2018. This represents a 23.45 increase.xxxvii

The state spent $99,830,772 on WIC in 2019, serving 202,915 people. This represents a 6.7% decrease in total participants and a 2.5% decrease in spending.xxxviii

1,501,680 people in Georgia were food insecure in 2017, including 503,370 children who struggled with hunger.xxxix

45.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Georgia in 2017 had children.xxx
**Health**

Georgia had **12,772** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **9.9%** of infants born in Georgia in 2017.\(^{xxi}\)

Georgia had a total of **14,509** preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **9.9%** of all white babies were born premature while **14.5%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **11.5%**.\(^{xxxii}\)

There were **7,778** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Georgia in 2017, representing a rate of **22** in every 1,000 teen girls. \(^{xxxiii}\)

**932** infants under 1 died in Georgia in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **7.2** per 1,000. \(^{xxxiv}\)

**Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018**

- **12%** White
- **41%** Black
- **47%** Hispanic

**Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018**

- **83%** Uninsured
- **9%** Medicaid
- **8%** CHIP
- **9%** Uninsured

- **8.1%** of Georgia’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **12,000** children. Georgia is not a Medicaid expansion state.\(^{xxxvi}\)

- **1,315,810** children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents **0.03%** decrease from 2017. \(^{xxxvii}\)

- **262,135** children in Georgia were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an **10.6%** increase from 2017. \(^{xxxviii}\)
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 15,400 total arrests for children under 18 in Georgia in 2018.
- 1,387 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,161 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,053 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 1,068 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia in 2017. This is a decrease from 1,110 kids in 2015, representing a 3.7% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 48,000 (8%) of Georgia’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 19 reports of children in Georgia aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 73 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 148 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Georgia spent $712,243,067 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.
- $359,861,953 were allocated from the federal government and $352,381,114 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $359,861,953 in federal funding received in Georgia in 2016:
  - Title IV-E
  - Title IV-B
  - TANF
  - SSBG
  - Medicaid
  - Other Sources

- $42,822,890 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $36,475,940 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Georgia’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $52,643,215.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


