Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Illinois had 81,287 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, all were referred for investigation.¹

There were 31,515 child victims of abuse or neglect in Illinois in 2018, at a rate of 11 children per 1,000. This translates to an 23.1% increase since 2013.²

Of the 31,515 children, 21,524 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 4,254 of the 31,515 cases.⁴

77% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 23% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship. ⁶

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

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- Medical Neglect only
- Neglect only
- Physical Abuse Only
- Psychological Maltreatment only
- Sexual Abuse Only
- Multiple Maltreatment Types

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Illinois reported 0 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.⁸

- Illinois reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **21,118** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **16,840** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **5,751** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **4,278** exited during the same year.
- **1,754** of Illinois’s children were adopted while **2,710** were waiting to be adopted.\(^{xlv}\)

There was a **5.7%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased **1.3%** from 2017.\(^{xv}\)

**202** children in Illinois aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from **243** in 2016 and represents a **16.9%** decrease.\(^{xvi}\)

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **32.8** months in care.\(^{xvii}\)
- The average length of stay in Illinois for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **46.4** months.\(^{xviii}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **7.4** years old.\(^{xix}\)
- The average age of adopted children was **6.3** years old.\(^{xx}\)
Data from 2017 shows that 5,400 children in foster care within Illinois were living with non-relatives while 6,915 stayed with a relative.

1,328 children were staying in group homes while 339 children were classified as runaways.\textsuperscript{xxi}

4\% of households in Illinois in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.\textsuperscript{xxii}

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.2 months.\textsuperscript{xxiii}

Child Poverty

Illinois had 755,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26\% of all children.\textsuperscript{xxiv}

30\% of Illinois’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\textsuperscript{xxv}

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 29,100 in 2017 to 23,285 in 2018. This represents a 19.9\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xxvi}

The state spent $106,635,287 on WIC in 2019, serving 182,341 people. This represents an 8.5\% decrease in total participants and a 12.7\% decrease in spending.\textsuperscript{xxvii}

1,395,970 people in Illinois were food insecure in 2017, including 453,260 children who struggled with hunger.\textsuperscript{xxviii}

37.2\% of households in Illinois with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxix}
**Health**

Illinois had **12,651** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **8.5%** of infants born in Illinois in 2017.\[xxx\]

Illinois had a total of **15,445** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **9.5%** of all white babies were born premature while **14.9%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **10.67%**.\[xxxi\]

There were **7,103** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Illinois in 2017, representing a rate of **17** in every 1,000 teen girls.\[xxxii\]

**912** infants under 1 died in Illinois in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **6.1** per 1,000.\[xxxiii\]

- **3.4%** of Illinois’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **102,000** children. Illinois is a Medicaid expansion state.\[xxxv\]

- **1,422,984** children in Illinois were enrolled in Medicaid in 2019. This represents **0.9%** decrease from **1,436,365** in 2017.

- **296,186** children in Illinois were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an **8.7%** decrease from 2017.\[xxxvi\]
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 7,366 total arrests for children under 18 in Illinois in 2018.
- 564 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,876 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 834 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxvii
- 1,071 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois in 2018. This is a decrease from 1,524 kids in 2015, representing a 29.7% decrease.xxxviii

Teens & Youth
- 43,000 (6%) of Illinois’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xxxix
- In 2017, there were 21 reports of children in Illinois aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 92 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xl
- 215 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Illinois in 2017.xli

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Illinois spent $1,085,562,575 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.
- $637,728,372 were allocated from the federal government and $447,834,203 came from state and local funds.xlii

Federal Funding Sources

- **$637,728,372** in federal funding received in Illinois in 2016: xliii
- **$174,329,464** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **$81,011,687** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program xliiv
- Illinois’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **$44,869,883** xliv


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.


xxxv Ibid.


xxix Ibid.


