Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Iowa had **56,562** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **35,716** were referred for investigation.¹

There were **11,764** child victims of abuse or neglect in Iowa in 2018, at a rate of **16.1** children per 1,000. This translates to an **45.8%** increase since 2014.²

Of the **11,764** children, **8,263** were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **1,825** of the **11,764** cases.⁴

- **78%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **22%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- **50%** of Iowa’s child victims in 2017 were female while **50%** were male.⁷

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

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

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Iowa reported 0 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.⁹
- Iowa reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 19 in 2017 to 16 in 2018.xi

Iowa reported 0 total child victims of sex trafficking.xii

14,207 victims received postresponse services while 43,215 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 9,866 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 6,249 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 4,181 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 3,617 exited during the same year.
- 1,074 of Iowa’s children were adopted while 1,206 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 4.9% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 6.7% from 2017.xvi

251 children in Iowa aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 424 in 2016 and represents a 40.8% decrease.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 13.9 months in care.xviii
- The average length of stay in Iowa for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 25.0 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.6 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 5.5 years old.xxx
Data from 2017 shows that 2,035 children in foster care within Iowa were living with non-relatives while 2,128 stayed with a relative.

- 611 children were staying in group homes while 36 children were classified as runaways.

- 2% of households in Iowa 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 7.0 months.

**Child Poverty**

Iowa had 141,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 19% of all children.

- 19% of Iowa’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 23,714 in 2017 to 20,862 in 2018. This represents a 12.0% decrease.

The state spent $22,077,009 on WIC in 2019, serving 58,064 people. This represents a 3.6% decrease in total participants and a 1.6% decrease in spending.

341,890 people in Iowa were food insecure in 2017, including 111,520 children who struggled with hunger.

42.3% of households in Iowa with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

Iowa had 2,526 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.6% of infants born in Iowa in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxi}

Iowa had a total of 3,745 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.6% of all white babies were born premature while 11.2% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.91%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 1,678 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Iowa in 2017, representing a rate of 16 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxiii}

203 infants under 1 died in Iowa in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.3 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

\begin{itemize}
\item 2.7\% of Iowa’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}
\item 334,207 children in Iowa were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 2.0\% decrease from 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}
\item 99,314 children in Iowa were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 8.1\% increase from 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxviii}
\end{itemize}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 10,088 total arrests for children under 18 in Iowa in 2017. Iowa did not report arrests for 2018.
- 991 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,607 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 902 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 585 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa in 2018. This is a decrease from 675 kids in 2015, representing a 13.3% decrease.

Teens & Youth
- 8,000 (5%) of Iowa’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Iowa aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 33 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 28 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Iowa in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Iowa spent $272,801,373 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.
- $144,809,696 were allocated from the federal government and $127,991,677 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $144,809,696 in federal funding received in Iowa in 2016:
  - $18,850,282 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $15,317,970 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Iowa’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $21,444,568.
Iowa’s Children 2020


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


