Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Maine had 19,837 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,185 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 3,481 child victims of abuse or neglect in Maine in 2018, at a rate of 13.9 children per 1,000. This translates to an 8.9% decrease since 2014.²

Of the 3,481 children, 2,332 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 464 of the 3,481 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

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

- 81% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 19% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- 50% of Maine’s child victims in 2017 were female while 50% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Maine reported 18 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.⁸
- Maine reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
There were 3 child fatalities in 2018.\textsuperscript{xi}

Maine reported 1 total child victim of sex trafficking with 1 female victim.\textsuperscript{xii}

1,115 victims received postresponse services while 185 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

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Foster Care and Adoptions

- 2,651 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 1,768 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 1,080 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 883 exited during the same year.
- 395 of Maine’s children were adopted while 482 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 11.6\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 13.3\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

62 children in Maine aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 69 in 2016 and represents a 10.1\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 19.0 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Maine for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 33.2 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.5 years old.\textsuperscript{x}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 722 children in foster care within Maine were living with non-relatives while 557 stayed with a relative.

- 79 children were staying in group homes while 3 children were classified as runaways.xxii

- 2% of households in Maine in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiii

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.5 months.xxiv

Child Poverty
Maine had 67,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.xxv

20% of Maine’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 7,115 in 2016 to 7,513 in 2018. This represents a 5.6% increase.xxvii

The state spent $8,546,072 on WIC in 2019, serving 17,475 people. This represents a 4.6% decrease in total participants and a 6.6% decrease in spending. xxviii

172,650 people in Maine were food insecure in 2017, including 47,020 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

33.9% of households in Maine with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.xxx
Health

Maine had 876 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.1% of infants born in Maine in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

Maine had a total of 1,054 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.5% of all white babies were born premature while 9.4% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 8.6%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 504 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Maine in 2017, representing a rate of 13 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxiii}

70 infants under 1 died in Maine in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.7 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 5.5% of Maine’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 15,000 children. Maine is a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

- 147,002 children in Maine were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 0.2% increase from 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}

- 25,219 children in Maine were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 8.2% increase from 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxviii}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,845 total arrests for children under 18 in Maine in 2018.
- 95 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 673 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 304 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 93 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Maine in 2018. This is an increase from 81 kids in 2015, representing a 14.8% increase.

Teens & Youth
- 3,000 (5%) of Maine’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Maine aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 0 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 9 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Maine in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Maine spent $133,346,192 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.
- $40,602,294 were allocated from the federal government and $92,743,898 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $40,602,294 in federal funding received in Maine in 2016:
  - $10,919,748 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program
  - $15,031,110 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Maine’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $4,903,795.


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.
childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

U.S.-2018/table-69


kids-count-data-book?-gclid=EAIaIQobChMl2aLdwNCV5wlVgZ6zCh1eWQ9EAAAYASAEgJ2EiD_BwE


