Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Maryland had 59,424 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 22,059 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 7,743 child victims of abuse or neglect in Maryland in 2018, at a rate of 5.8 children per 1,000. This translates to an 15.1% decrease since 2014.\(^2\)

Of the 7,743 children, 5,661 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 567 of the 7,743 cases.\(^4\)

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018
- Neglect only
- Multiple Maltreatment Types
- Physical Abuse Only
- Psychological Maltreatment only
- Sexual Abuse Only

- 80% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 20% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^6\)
- 51% of Maryland’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.\(^7\)

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, Maryland reported 46 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.\(^9\)
- Maryland reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
Maryland’s Children 2020

- Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 41 in 2017 to 40 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xi}
- Maryland reported no child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xii}
- 3,543 victims received postresponse services while 4,055 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 6,210 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 3,973 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 2,413 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 2,237 exited during the same year.
- 353 of Maryland’s children were adopted while 385 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 1.2\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 1.4\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

353 children in Maryland aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 379 in 2016 and represents a 6.9\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 22.2 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Maryland for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 34.0 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.4 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Maryland’s Children 2020

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- 1,431 children in foster care within Maryland were living with non-relatives while 1,662 stayed with a relative.
- 498 children were staying in group homes while 39 children were classified as runaways.
- 3% of households in Maryland 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 13.9 months.

Child Poverty

Maryland had 314,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 23% of all children.

- 32% of Maryland’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.
- The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 47,696 in 2017 to 44,133 in 2018. This represents a 7.5% decrease.
- The state spent $54,811,973 on WIC in 2019, serving 122,569 people. This represents a 4.6% decrease in total participants and an 8.7% decrease in spending.
- 650,200 people in Maryland were food insecure in 2017, including 204,660 children who struggled with hunger.
- 38.7% of households in Maryland with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

Maryland had 6,375 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.9% of infants born in Maryland in 2017. xxxi

Maryland had a total of 7,231 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.7% of all white babies were born premature while 12.9% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.2%. xxxii

There were 2,667 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Maryland in 2017, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

460 infants under 1 died in Maryland in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 3.3% of Maryland’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 47,000 children. Maryland is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxvi

- 506,314 children in Maryland were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 5.9% decrease from 2017. xxxvii

- 151,179 children in Maryland were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 6.6% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 17,825 total arrests for children under 18 in Maryland in 2018.
- 967 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,705 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,046 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 549 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland in 2018. This is a decrease from 612 kids in 2015, representing a 10.3% decrease.

Teens & Youth

- 18,000 (6%) of Maryland’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Maryland aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 26 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 61 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Maryland in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Maryland spent $507,946,784 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.
- $142,815,954 were allocated from the federal government and $365,130,830 came from state and local funds.
- The breakdown of the $142,815,954 in federal funding received in Maryland in 2016:
  - $3,280,858 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $22,608,216 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Maryland’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $29,410,898.


Ibid.


Ibid.


childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

Reports, 2018 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Report, Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in CHIP
childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

-u.s.-2018/tables/table-69

https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/

kids-count-data-book/?gclid=EAAlQobChMl2aLdwNCV5wlVgZ6zCh1eWQI09EAAYASAAEgJ2EiD_BwE

xlii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics
2020 from https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipe/dataRestriction Led.html

xliii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics
estimates. Fatal Injury Reports 1999-2017, for national, regional and states, 2016-2017, United States,
firearm deaths and rates per 100,000: All races, both Sexes, ages 0 to 19, outgroups: Year and state. Retrieved

local expenditures. Appendix A: SFY 2016 total federal, state, and local expenditures by state. Retrieved February 4,
2020 from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-

local expenditures. Appendix C: SFY 2016 federal expenditures by source, by state. Retrieved February 4, 2020 from
https://www.childtrends.org/wp-

local expenditures. Appendix D: SFY 2016 Title IV-E expenditures, by state, Table D1, Table D2. Retrieved
January 27, 2020 from https://www.childtrends.org/wp-

xlvii U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of
SSBG State Profile. Retrieved February 4, 2020 from