Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Minnesota had 90,598 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 31,837 were referred for investigation.\(i\)

There were 7,785 child victims of abuse or neglect in Minnesota in 2018, at a rate of 6.0 children per 1,000. This translates to an 87.9% increase since 2013.\(ii\)

Of the 7,785 children, 6,448 were first time victims.\(iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,210 of the 7,785 cases.\(iv\)

76% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 24% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(vi\)

52% of Minnesota’s child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.\(vii\)

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, 1,495 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(ix\)
- Minnesota reported 1,008 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(x\)
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 24 in 2017 to 30 in 2018.xi

Minnesota reported 18 total child victims of sex trafficking with 16 females and 2 males.xii

5,721 victims received post-response services while 12,799 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 16,042 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
• 9,271 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
• 6,743 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 6,771 exited during the same year.
• 1,284 of Minnesota’s children were adopted while 2,026 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was an 3.9% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 35.7% from 2017.xvi

451 children in Minnesota aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 416 in 2016 and represents an 8.4% increase.xvii

• Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 16.3 months in care. xviii
• The average length of stay in Minnesota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 26.4 months.xix
• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.7 years old.xx
• The average age of adopted children was 5.8 years old.xxi
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that **2,857** children in foster care within Minnesota were living with non-relatives while **3,947** stayed with a relative.
- **1,169** children were staying in group homes while **120** children were classified as runaways.
- **3%** of households in Minnesota 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 **8.8** months.

**Child Poverty**

Minnesota had **276,000** children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **21%** of all children.

22% of Minnesota’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **41,868** in 2018 to **44,821** in 2019. This represents a **6.6%** decrease.

The state spent **$45,660,770** on WIC in 2019, serving **100,123** people. This represents a **5.5%** decrease in total participants and a **14.4%** decrease in spending.

**504,760** people in Minnesota were food insecure in 2017, including **163,310** children who struggled with hunger.

39% of households in Minnesota with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

Minnesota had 4,626 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.7% of infants born in Minnesota in 2017. 

Minnesota had a total of 6,004 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.6% of all white babies were born premature while 9.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 8.9%. 

There were 2,113 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Minnesota in 2017, representing a rate of 12 in every 1,000 teen girls. 

328 infants under 1 died in Minnesota in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000.

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

- 4% of Minnesota’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 45,000 children.
- 654,776 children in Minnesota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 1.2% decrease from 2017.
- 4,043 children in Minnesota were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 0.2% decrease from 2017.
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 19,391 total arrests for children under 18 in Minnesota in 2018.
- 2,110 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 4,165 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,698 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 675 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota in 2017. This is a decrease from 852 kids in 2015, representing a 20.8% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 12,000 (4%) of Minnesota’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Minnesota aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 56 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 47 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Minnesota in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Minnesota spent $563,129,419 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.
- $404,558,416 were allocated from the federal government and $158,581,003 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $404,558,416 in federal funding received in Montana in 2016:
  - $36,387,172 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $20,155,254 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Montana’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $31,709,923.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


