Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Mississippi had 35,558 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,606 were referred for investigation.i

There were 10,002 child victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi in 2018, at a rate of 14.2 children per 1,000. This translates to an 18.6% increase since 2013.ii

Of the 10,002 children, 8,886 were first time victims.iii

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,240 of the 10,002 cases.iv

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 72% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 28% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.vi

- 54% of Mississippi’s child victims in 2017 were female while 46% were male.vii

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, 56 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.ix

- Mississippi reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.x
• Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 40 in 2017 to 30 in 2018.xi

• Mississippi had no reports of child victims of sex trafficking.xii

• 5,911 victims received post-response services while 4,070 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 7,882 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.

• 4,603 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.

• 2,520 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 13,181 exited during the same year.

• 431 of Mississippi’s children were adopted while 1,730 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 13.5% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 18.4% from 2017.xvi

59 children in Mississippi aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 85 in 2016 and represents a 30.6% decrease.xvii

• Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 19.3 months in care. xviii

• The average length of stay in Mississippi for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 30.3 months.xix

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.8 years old.xxx

• The average age of adopted children was 7.3 years old.xxxi
Data from 2017 shows that 2,391 children in foster care within Mississippi were living with non-relatives while 2,095 stayed with a relative.

- 347 children were staying in group homes while 35 children were classified as runaways.xxxii

- 6% of households in Mississippi in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiv

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 12.3 months.xxiv

**Child Poverty**

Mississippi had 242,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 34% of all children.xxv

26% of Mississippi’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 10,486 in 2017 to 8,901 in 2018. This represents a 15.1% decrease.xxvii

The state spent $51,983,445 on WIC in 2019, serving 79,106 people. This represents a 7.4% decrease in total participants and a 1.8% increase in spending.xxviii

573,610 people in Mississippi were food insecure in 2017, including 163,530 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

49.6% of households in Mississippi with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.xxx
Health

Mississippi had 4,333 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 11.6% of infants born in Mississippi in 2017.xxxi

Mississippi had a total of 5,269 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 12.2% of all white babies were born premature while 17.3% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 14.3%.xxxii

There were 3,137 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Mississippi in 2017, representing a rate of 31 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxiii

322 infants under 1 died in Mississippi in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 8.6 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 4% of Mississippi’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 35,000 children. Mississippi is not a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi
- 422,523 children in Mississippi were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 3.3% decrease from 2017. xxxvii
- 88,491 children in Mississippi were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 2.7% decrease from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,453 total arrests for children under 18 in Mississippi in 2018.
- 301 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 562 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 190 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 273 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi in 2017. This is a decrease from 243 kids in 2015, representing a 12.3% increase.

Teens & Youth
- 12,500 (8%) of Mississippi’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Mississippi aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 57 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Mississippi spent $160,482,273 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.
- $80,255,874 were allocated from the federal government and $80,226,562 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $80,255,874 in federal funding received in Mississippi in 2016:
  - $25,711,702 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $10,511,089 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Mississippi’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $13,599,562.
Mississippi’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


