Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Missouri had 98,887 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 77,316 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 5,662 child victims of abuse or neglect in Missouri in 2018, at a rate of 4.1 children per 1,000. This translates to a 6.4% increase since 2014.\(^2\)

Of the 5,662 children, 4,867 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 452 of the 5,662 cases.\(^4\)

- 60% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 40% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^5\)
- 55% of Missouri’s child victims in 2017 were female while 45% were male.\(^6\)

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 36% Neglect Only
- 19% Physical Abuse Only
- 14% Sexual Abuse Only
- 14% Multiple Maltreatment Types
- 25% Other

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, 34 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^7\)
- Missouri reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^8\)
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 33 in 2017 to 36 in 2018.xi

Missouri had no reports of child victims of sex trafficking.xii

3,606 victims received post-response services while 28,942 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 19,218 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 12,659 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 6,963 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 6,559 exited during the same year.
- 1,798 of Missouri’s children were adopted while 2,783 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 2.2% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 16.7% from 2017.xvi

560 children in Missouri aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 569 in 2016 and represents a 1.6% decrease.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 18.3 months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in Missouri for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 32.6 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.4 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 5.9 years old.xxi
Missouri’s Children 2020

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 5,093 children in foster care within Missouri were living with non-relatives while 3,627 stayed with a relative.
- 964 children were staying in group homes while 83 children were classified as runaways.xxii
- 3% of households in Missouri 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 6.8 months.xxiv

Child Poverty

Missouri had 380,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children.xxv

- 24% of Missouri’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi
- The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 25,838 in 2017 to 22,235 in 2018. This represents a 13.9% decrease.xxvii
- The state spent $43,767,455 on WIC in 2019, serving 106,733 people. This represents a 6.6% decrease in total participants and an 8.2% decrease in spending.xxviii

865,400 people in Missouri were food insecure in 2017, including 243,110 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

45% of households in Missouri with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.xxx
Health
Missouri had 6,226 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.7% of infants born in Missouri in 2017.xxxi

Missouri had a total of 7,849 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.8% of all white babies were born premature while 15.2% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.7%.xxxii

There were 4,301 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Missouri in 2017, representing a rate of 22 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

456 infants under 1 died in Missouri in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000. xxxiv

---

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 7% of Missouri’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 83,000 children. Missouri is not a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi
- 627,204 children in Missouri were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 1.3% increase from 2017. xxxvii
- 109,169 children in Missouri were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 16.4% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 15,560 total arrests for children under 18 in Missouri in 2018.
- 1,210 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,886 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,108 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 780 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri in 2017. This is a decrease from 948 kids in 2015, representing a 17.7% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 21,000 (6%) of Missouri’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 12 reports of children in Missouri aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 63 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 113 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Missouri in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Missouri spent $399,217,525 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.
- $107,782,270 were allocated from the federal government and $291,435,255 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $107,782,270 in federal funding received in Missouri in 2016:
  - $71,697,185 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $34,832,707 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Missouri’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $29,805,353.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


