Child Maltreatment

In 2018, the US had 3,960,823 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,402,827 were referred for investigation.\textsuperscript{i}

There were $677,529$ child victims of maltreatment in the US in 2018, at a rate of 9.2 children per 1,000. This translates to an 0.3% increase since 2013.\textsuperscript{ii}

Of the $677,529$ children, $469,126$ were first time victims.\textsuperscript{iii}

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing $103,478$ of the $677,529$ cases.\textsuperscript{iv}

- $76\%$ of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. $24\%$ were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\textsuperscript{vi}
- $54\%$ of the Nation’s child victims in 2017 were female while $46\%$ were male.\textsuperscript{vii}

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, the US reported $24,342$ infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\textsuperscript{ix}
- The United States reported $9,674$ plans of safe care for screened-in infants from 11 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.\textsuperscript{x}
The Nation’s Children 2020

Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 1,720 in 2017 to 1,738 in 2018.xi

The Nation reported 741 total child victims of sex trafficking with 664 females and 77 males.xii

391,661 victims received postresponse services while 951,678 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 687,345 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
• 437,283 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
• 262,956 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 250,103 exited during the same year.
• 63,123 of the Nation’s children were adopted while 125,422 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 0.9% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions out of foster care increased 6.1% from 2017.xvi

20,455 children in the US aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a slight decrease from 20,532 in 2016 and represents an 0.4% decrease.xvii

• Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 20.1 months in care.xviii
• The average length of stay in the United States for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 30.9 months.xix
• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.2 years old.xx
• The average age of adopted children was 5.8 years old.xxx
• Data from 2017 shows that 200,667 children in foster care within the US were living with non-relatives while 140,485 stayed with a relative. xxii

• 50,090 children were staying in group homes while 4,732 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

• 4% of households in the United States 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 9.9 months. xxv

**Child Poverty**

The United States had 20,075,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children. xxvi

31% of the Nation’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 2,565,104 in 2017 to 2,258,668 in 2018. This represents a 11.9% decrease. xxviii

The country spent $3,142,292,903 on WIC in 2019, serving 6,400,238 people. This represents a 6.8% decrease in total participants and a 6.9% decrease in spending. xxix

37,227,000 people in the United States were food insecure in 2017, including 11,174,000 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

Children accounted for 44% of all SNAP recipients nationwide in 2017. xxxi
Health
The Nation had **318,873** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **8.3%** of infants born in the United States in 2017. xxxii

The US had a total of **379,777** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **9.1%** of all white babies were born premature while **14.1%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **10%**. xxxiii

There were **194,377** births to mothers aged 15-19 in the Nation in 2017, representing a rate of **19** in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

**22,335** infants under 1 died in the US in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **5.8** per 1,000. xxxv

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### Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- **Medicaid**: 19%
- **CHIP**: 8%
- **Uninsured**: 73%

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- **5.2%** of the Nation’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **4,055,000** children. xxxvii

- **36,287,063** children in the US were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents **1.8%** decrease from 2017. xxxviii

- **9,632,367** children in the Nation were in the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an **1.8%** increase from 2017. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 553,620 total arrests for children under 18 in the United States in 2018.
- 44,074 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 100,743 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 68,612 children were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 43,580 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in the Nation in 2017. This is a decrease from 48,043 kids in 2015, representing a 17.3% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 1,171,000 (7%) of the United States’ youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 517 reports of children in the US aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 2,491 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 2,479 children aged 18 and under were killed by a firearm in the Nation in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- The United States spent $29,886,155,998 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.
- $13,502,063,156 were allocated from the federal government and $16,384,092,843 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $13,502,063,156 in federal funding spent in 2016.
  - $2,666,814,920 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $2,512,120,200 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - The United States’ sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $1,564,529,526.
The Nation’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.

xxiv Ibid.


