**Child Maltreatment**

In 2018, Nebraska had 36,888 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 12,309 were referred for investigation.\(^i\)

There were 2,635 child victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska in 2018, at a rate of 5.5 children per 1,000. This translates to a 33.1% decrease since 2014.\(^{ii}\)

Of the 2,635 children, 1,977 were first time victims.\(^{iii}\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 314 of the 2,635 cases.\(^{iv}\)

- 79% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 21% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^{vi}\)
- 52% of Nebraska's child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.\(^{vii}\)

**Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018**

- 76% of cases were neglect only
- 9% were physical abuse only
- 19% were sexual abuse only
- 6% were multiple maltreatment types

**Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018**

- African American: 11%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 8%
- Asian: 4%
- Hispanic: 19%
- Multiple Race: 7%
- White: 50%
- Unknown: 4%

**Plans of Safe Care**

- In 2018, 201 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^{ix}\)
- Nebraska reported 7 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^{x}\)
Nebraska’s Children 2020

Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 1 in 2017 to 0 in 2018.xi

Nebraska reported 2 total child victims of sex trafficking with 2 females and 0 males.xii

2,128 victims received post-response services while 12,842 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 6,962 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 73,524 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 1,869 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 2,438 exited during the same year.
- 564 of Nebraska’s children were adopted while 817 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 16% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 3.3% from 2017.xvi

130 children in Nebraska aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 134 in 2016 and represents a 3% decrease.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 16.1 months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in Nebraska for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 30.5 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.9 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 6.5 years old.xxxi
Data from 2017 shows that 1,672 children in foster care within Nebraska were living with non-relatives while 1,432 stayed with a relative.

- 204 children were staying in group homes while 34 children were classified as runaways.\textsuperscript{xxii}

- 2\% of households in Nebraska in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.\textsuperscript{xxiii}

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 7.6 months.\textsuperscript{xxiv}

**Child Poverty**

Nebraska had 95,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 20\% of all children.\textsuperscript{xxv}

22\% of Nebraska’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\textsuperscript{xxvi}

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 10,679 in 2017 to 10,280 in 2018. This represents a 3.7\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xxvii}

The state spent $16,009,374 on WIC in 2019, serving 33,989 people. This represents a 5.1\% decrease in total participants and an 8.4\% decrease in spending. \textsuperscript{xxviii}

223,170 people in Nebraska were food insecure in 2017, including 82,370 children who struggled with hunger.\textsuperscript{xxix}

48\% of households in Nebraska with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxx}
Health

Nebraska had 1,930 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.5% of infants born in Nebraska in 2017.xxxi

Nebraska had a total of 2,664 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.2% of all white babies were born premature while 13.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.5%.xxxii

There were 1,158 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Nebraska in 2017, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

144 infants under 1 died in Nebraska in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000. xxxiv

PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN, 2018

- 3% of Nebraska’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 26,000 children. Nebraska is not a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi

- 168,380 children in Nebraska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 0.8% increase from 2017. xxxvii

- 59,608 children in Nebraska were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 6% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 6,985 total arrests for children under 18 in Nebraska in 2018.
- 341 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,426 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,006 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 486 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nebraska in 2017. This is an increase from 465 kids in 2015, representing a 4.5% incline.

Teens & Youth

- 6,000 (5%) of Nebraska’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Nebraska aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 25 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 16 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nebraska in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Nebraska spent $159,192,155 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.
- $115,114,553 were allocated from the federal government and $44,077,602 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $115,114,553 in federal funding received in Nebraska in 2016:
  - $444,747 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $15,710,507 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Nebraska’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $9,284,870.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


