

New Jersey's Children 2020

Child Maltreatment

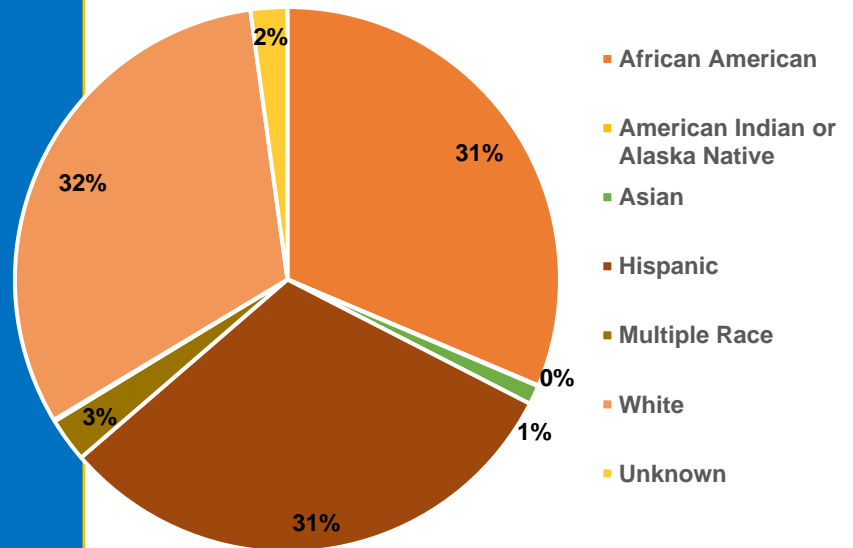
In 2018, New Jersey had **59,428** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **59,428** were referred for investigation.ⁱ

There were **6,008** child victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey in 2018, at a rate of **16.6** children per 1,000. This translates to a **48.1%** decrease since 2014.ⁱⁱ

Of the **6,008** children, **4,718** were first time victims.ⁱⁱⁱ

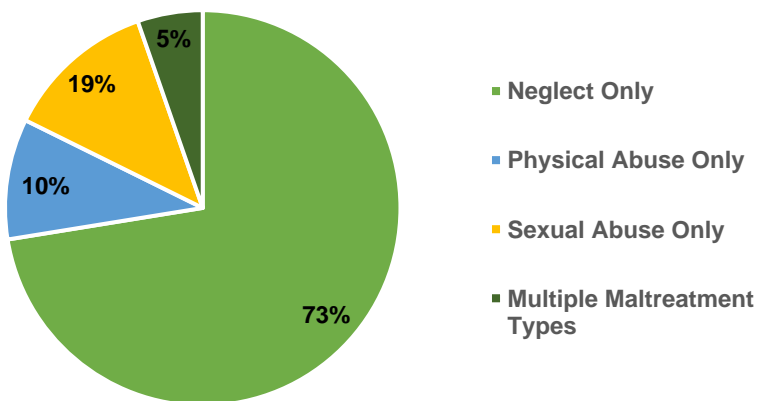
The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **774** of the **6,008** cases.^{iv}

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



v

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018



- **78%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **22%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.^{vi}

- **52%** of New Jersey's child victims in 2017 were female while **48%** were male.^{vii}

viii

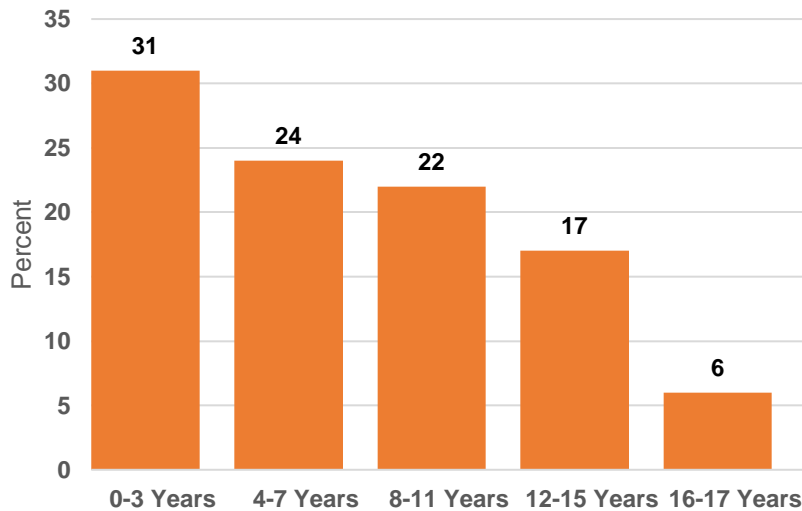
Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, New Jersey reported **266** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.^{ix}
- New Jersey reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.^x



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2017



• Child fatalities increased in 2018 from **13** in 2017 to **18** in 2018.^{.xi}

• New Jersey reported **2** total child victims of sex trafficking with **1** female and **1** male.^{.xii}

• **4,063** victims received post-response services while **21,325** non-victims received post-response services as well.^{.xiii}

^{.xiv}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **9,382** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **5,526** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **3,540** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **3,863** exited during the same year.
- **1,054** of New Jersey's children were adopted while **2,267** were waiting to be adopted.^{.xv}

There was a **7.1%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased **4.7%** from 2017.^{.xvi}

1.7%
Decrease since
2016 in children
aging out of
foster care

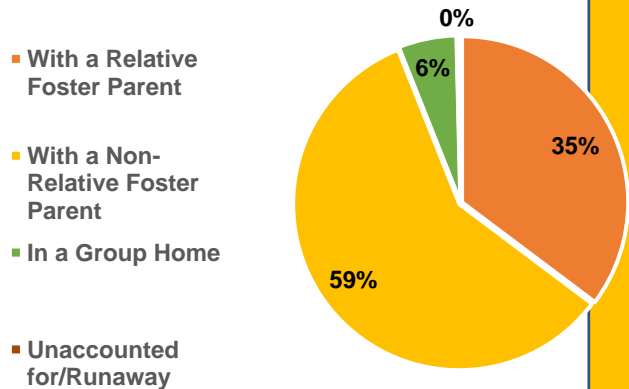
293 children in New Jersey aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from **298** in 2016 and represents a **1.7%** decrease.^{.xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **19.8** months in care. ^{.xviii}
- The average length of stay in New Jersey for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **31.3** months.^{.xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **6.6** years old.^{.xx}
- The average age of adopted children was **5.7** years old.^{.xxi}



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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

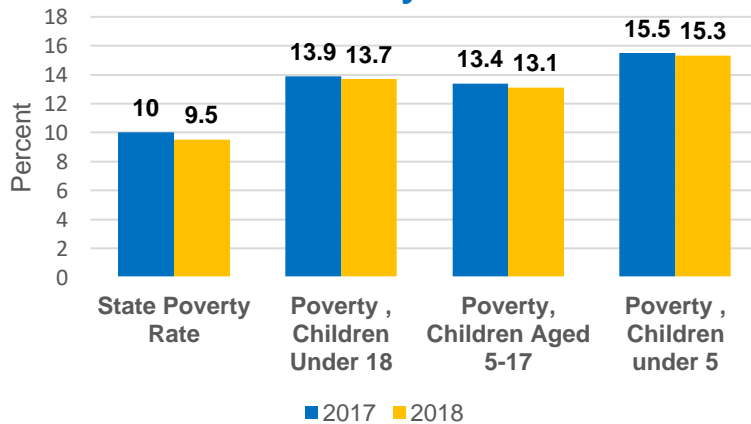


- Data from 2017 shows that **3,454** children in foster care within New Jersey were living with non-relatives while **2,073** stayed with a relative.
- **332** children were staying in group homes while **22** children were classified as runaways.^{.xxii}
- **4%** of households in New Jersey in 2017 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 **12.6** months.^{.xxiv}

Child Poverty

New Jersey had **479,000** children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **24%** of all children.^{.xxv}

Child Poverty Over Time



37% of New Jersey's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.^{.xxvi}

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **31,367** in 2017 to **26,300** in 2018. This represents a **16.2%** decrease.^{.xxvii}

The state spent **\$91,936,358** on WIC in 2019, serving **134,936** people. This represents a **4.7%** decrease in total participants and a **2.4%** decrease in spending.^{.xxviii}

865,900 people in New Jersey were food insecure in 2017, including **260,340** children who struggled with hunger.^{.xxix}

42.5% of households in New Jersey with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.^{.xxx}



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Health

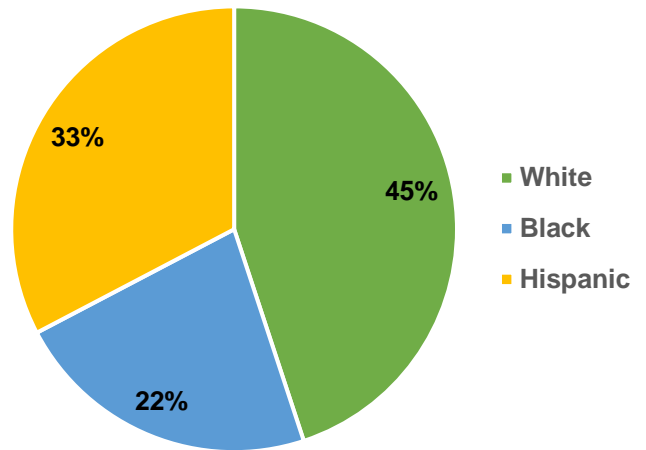
New Jersey had **8,040** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **7.9%** of infants born in New Jersey in 2017. ^{.xxxvi}

New Jersey had a total of **9,618** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **8.2%** of all white babies were born premature while **9.1%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **9.5%**. ^{.xxxvii}

There were **2,837** births to mothers aged 15-19 in New Jersey in 2017, representing a rate of **10** in every 1,000 teen girls. ^{.xxxviii}

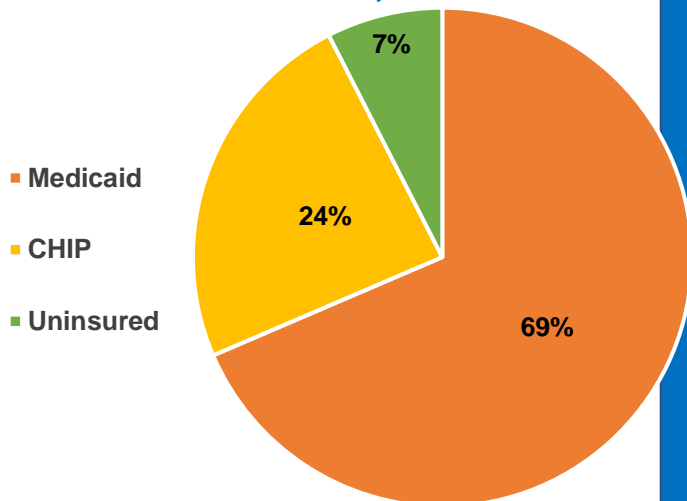
453 infants under 1 died in New Jersey in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **4.2** per 1,000. ^{.xxxix}

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018



- **7%** of New Jersey's children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **80,000** children. New Jersey is not a Medicaid expansion state. ^{.xxxvi}

- **728,620** children in New Jersey were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a **1.5%** decrease from 2017. ^{.xxxvii}

- **254,284** children in New Jersey were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a **6%** increase from 2017. ^{.xxxviii}



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8%

decline since
2015 of children
living in juvenile
correction
facilities

Juvenile Justice System

- There were **11,513** total arrests for children under 18 in New Jersey in 2018.
- **992** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **1,819** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **2,769** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.^{xxxix}
- **585** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Jersey in 2017. This is a decrease from **636** kids in 2015, representing an **8%** decline.^{xi}

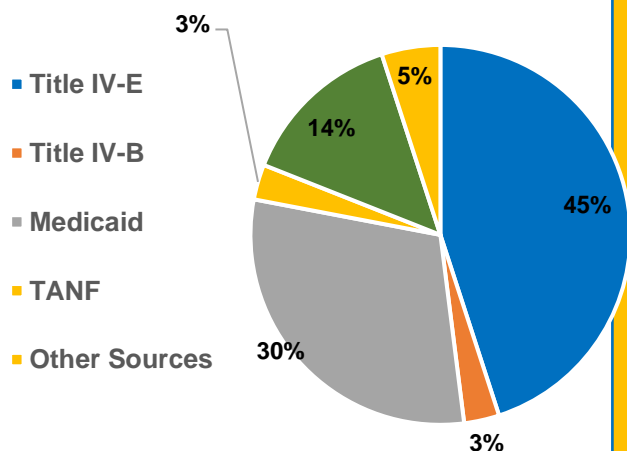
Teens & Youth

- **30,000** (7%) of New Jersey's youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.^{xii}
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in New Jersey aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **37** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.^{xiii}
- **32** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey in 2017.^{xiii}

Child Welfare Services Funding

- New Jersey spent **\$1,024,507,983** 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.
- **\$375,536,970** were allocated from the federal government and **\$648,971,013** came from state and local funds.^{xiv}

Federal Funding Sources



- The breakdown of the **\$375,536,970** in federal funding received in New Jersey in 2016:

^{xlv}

- **\$95,666,948** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **\$65,720,718** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program ^{xlvi}
- New Jersey's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **\$44,000,908** ^{xlvii}



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- ix U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). Child Maltreatment 2018. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 7-5 Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure by Submission Type, 2018. Retrieved January 21, 2020 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2018.pdf>
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^{xvi} Based on Calculations from the CWLA

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