Child Maltreatment

In 2018, New Jersey had 59,428 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 59,428 were referred for investigation.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{ii}

Of the 6,008 children, 4,718 were first time victims.\textsuperscript{iii}

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

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.\textsuperscript{vi}
- 52% of New Jersey’s child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.\textsuperscript{vii}

Plans of Safe Care

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

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

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
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

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
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.xxxi

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%.xxxii

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. xxxiii

453 infants under 1 died in New Jersey in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.2 per 1,000. xxxiv

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
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.xli
- 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.xlii
- 32 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey in 2017.xliii

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.xlv

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 xlvii
- New Jersey’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $44,000,908 xlvii
New Jersey’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


