In 2018, North Carolina had 62,158 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. All 162,158 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 6,502 child victims of abuse or neglect in North Carolina in 2018, at a rate of 2.8 children per 1,000. This translates to a 22.7% increase since 2013.²

Of the 6,502 children, 5,328 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 631 of the 6,502 cases.⁴

84% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents on the child. 16% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

52% of North Carolina’s child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, North Carolina did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- North Carolina reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 18 in 2017 to 14 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xi}

North Carolina did not report any numbers for sex trafficking victims\textsuperscript{xii}

North Carolina did not report any numbers for victims or non-victims who received post-response services\textsuperscript{xiii} \textsuperscript{xiv}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 15,241 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 10,543 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 5,531 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 4,698 exited during the same year.
- 1,522 of North Carolina’s children were adopted while 2,819 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 2\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 0.4\% from 2017. The total numbers of children served decreased 1.7\%.\textsuperscript{xvi}

198 children in North Carolina aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 494 in 2016 and represents a 60\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 18.9 months in care. \textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in North Carolina for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 33.6 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.5 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 5,699 children in foster care within North Carolina were living with non-relatives while 2,853 stayed with a relative.

- 1,262 children were staying in group homes while 74 children were classified as runaways.
- 4% of households in North Carolina in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.
- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 7.5 months.

Child Poverty

North Carolina had 634,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 28% of all children.

27% (621,000) of North Carolina’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 28,682 in 2017 to 25,503 in 2018. This represents a 11.1% decrease.

The state spent $91,480,873 on WIC in 2019, serving 207,351 people. This represents a 6.5% decrease in total participants and a 19% decrease in spending.

1,503,050 people in North Carolina were food insecure in 2017, including 461,630 children who struggled with hunger.

40.3% of households in North Carolina with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

North Carolina had 11,268 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.4% of infants born in North Carolina in 2017. xxxi

North Carolina had a total of 12,340 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.3% of all white babies were born premature while 13.8% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.4%. xxxii

There were 8,759 births to mothers aged 15-19 in North Carolina in 2017, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

847 infants under 1 died in North Carolina in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.1 per 1,000. xxxiv

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- White: 57%
- Black: 27%
- Hispanic: 16%

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

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

• 5.3% of North Carolina’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 130,000 children. North Carolina is not a Medicaid expansion state. xxxvi

• 1,144,978 children in North Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 0.8% decrease from 2017. xxxvii

• 296,759 children in North Carolina were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 8.4% increase from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 11,088 total arrests for children under 18 in North Carolina in 2018.
- 686 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,683 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,414 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 366 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina in 2018. This is a decrease from 468 kids in 2015, representing a 21.8% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 38,000 (7%) of North Carolina’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 20 reports of children in North Carolina aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 59 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 89 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in North Carolina in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- North Carolina spent $603,874,040 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.
- $252,696,282 were allocated from the federal government and $351,177,758 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $252,696,282 in federal funding received in North Carolina in 2016:
  - $69,934,496 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $51,401,821 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - North Carolina’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $46,610,327.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


