Child Maltreatment

In 2018, North Dakota had 4,364 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. All were referred for investigation.¹

There were 2,096 child victims of abuse or neglect in North Dakota in 2018, at a rate of 11.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 30.1% increase since 2014.²

Of the 2,096 children, 1,552 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 258 of the 2,096 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 31% of victims were neglect only.
- 19% were physical abuse only.
- 5% were sexual abuse only.
- 62% were multiple maltreatment types.

- 81% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 19% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

- 50% of North Dakota’s child victims in 2017 were female and 50% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, North Dakota did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁸

- North Dakota reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **2,613** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **1,576** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **1,165** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **1,143** exited during the same year.
- **172** of North Dakota’s children were adopted while **429** were waiting to be adopted.

There was a **5.1%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased **6.2%** from 2017.

**50** children in North Dakota aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is decrease from **55** in 2016 and represents a **9.1%** decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **19.2** months in care.
- The average length of stay in North Dakota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **34.9** months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **8** years old.
- The average age of adopted children was **6** years old.
Data from 2017 shows that 894 children in foster care within North Dakota were living with non-relatives while 309 stayed with a relative.

- 198 children were staying in group homes while 3 children were classified as runaways.
- 2% of households in North Dakota 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 9.2 months.

**Child Poverty**

North Dakota had 37,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 11% of all children.

18% of North Dakota’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 2,673 in 2017 to 2,584 in 2018. This represents a 3.3% decrease.

The state spent $6,734,742 on WIC in 2019, serving 11,405 people. This represents a 7.4% decrease in total participants and a 0.4% increase in spending.

54,930 people in North Dakota were food insecure in 2017, including 16,900 children who struggled with hunger.

44.3% of households in North Dakota with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

North Dakota had 720 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.7% of infants born in North Dakota in 2017.xxxi

North Dakota had a total of 756 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 6.8% of all white babies were born premature while 6.9% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 7.11%.xxxii

There were 368 births to mothers aged 15-19 in North Dakota in 2017, representing a rate of 16 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

46 infants under 1 died in North Dakota in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.3 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018
- 6% of North Dakota’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 11,000 children. North Dakota is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi
- 53,988 children in North Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 2% decrease from 2017.xxxvii
- 8,689 children in North Dakota were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 10.2% increase from 2017.xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
• There were 4,009 total arrests for children under 18 in North Dakota in 2018.
• 644 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
• 435 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
• 429 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
• 108 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota in 2017. This is a decrease from 144 kids in 2015, representing a 25% decline.

Teens & Youth
• 2,000 (4%) of North Dakota’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
• North Dakota did not report the number of suicides committed among children 10-14; There were 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
• North Dakota did not report the number of children under nineteen who were killed by a firearm in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
• North Dakota spent $71,460,394 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.
• $47,167,751 were allocated from the federal government and $24,292,643 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
• The breakdown of the $47,167,751 in federal funding received in North Dakota in 2016:
  • $13,975,933 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  • $6,025,219 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  • North Dakota’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $3,706,363.
North Dakota’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


x ix Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


