Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Ohio had 193,824 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 85,676 were screened in for investigation.¹

There were 25,158 child victims of abuse or neglect in Ohio in 2018, at a rate of 9.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 0.9 increase since 2014.²

Of the 193,824 children, 18,351 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 3,726 of the 193,824 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 61% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 39% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- 53% of Ohio’s child victims in 2017 were female and 47% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018 Ohio reported 1,997 for infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁸
- Ohio reported 1,196 screened-in infants with plans of safe care. ⁹
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **26,744** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **15,730** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **12,325** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **11,024** exited during the same year.
- **15,566** of Ohio’s children were adopted while **3,579** were waiting to be adopted.\[^{xiv}\]

There was a **5.1%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system increased **1.8%** from 2017.\[^{xv}\]

**1,030** children in Ohio aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from **1,027** in 2016 and represents a **0.3%** increase.\[^{xvi}\]

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **15.9** months in care.\[^{xvii}\]
- The average length of stay in Ohio for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **36.5** months.\[^{xviii}\]
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **8.9** years old.\[^{xix}\]
- The average age of adopted children was **5.9** years old.\[^{xx}\]
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 8,915 children in foster care within Ohio were living with non-relatives while 3,127 stayed with a relative.
- 2,038 children were staying in group homes while 153 children were classified as runaways. xxii
- 3% of households in Ohio 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 5.9 months. xxiv

Child Poverty
Ohio had 1,236,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 30% of all children. xxv

Child Poverty Over Time

25% of Ohio’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 101,392 in 2017 to 92,017 in 2018. This represents a 9.2% decrease. xxvii

The state spent $70,521,572 on WIC in 2019, serving 192,574 people. This represents a 7.8% decrease in total participants and a 9.1% decrease in spending. xxviii

1,691,910 people in Ohio were food insecure in 2017, including 510,030 children who struggled with hunger. xxix

39.4% of households in Ohio with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health
Ohio had 318,873 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.7% of infants born in Ohio in 2017.xxx

Ohio had a total of 13,845 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.46% of all white babies were born premature while 14.02% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.25%.xxxii

There were 7,788 births to mothers aged 15-19 in 2017, representing a rate of 21 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxii

983 infants under 1 died in Ohio in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.2 per 1,000. xxxiii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018
- 4.8% of Ohio’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 133,000 children. Ohio is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxv
- 1,257,669 children in Ohio were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 3.2% decrease from 2017. xxxvi
- 260,890 children in Ohio were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 4.3% increase from 2017. xxxvii
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 20,003 total arrests for children under 18 in Ohio in 2018.
- 1,722 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,995 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,655 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxviii
- 2,079 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio in 2017. This is a decrease from 2,163 kids in 2015, representing a 3.9% decrease.xxxix

Teens & Youth

- 34,000 (5%) of Ohio’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xli
- In 2017, Ohio reported 25 deaths by suicide for children 10-14; There were 97 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlii
- 136 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Ohio in 2017.xlii

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Ohio spent $1,299,295,490 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.
- $807,539,339 were allocated from the federal government and $1,444,635,189 came from state and local funds.xliii

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $566,612,445 in federal funding received in Ohio in 2016: xlv
  - $13,975,933 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $178,660,523 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program xlv
- Ohio’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $54,664,247 xlvi
Ohio's Children 2020


xv Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xix Ibid.

xx Ibid.


xxii Ibid.


xxv Ibid.


xxix Ibid.


Ohio’s Children 2020


