In 2018, Oklahoma had 80,864 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 87,788 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 15,355 child victims of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma in 2018, at a rate of 16.1 children per 1,000. This translates to a 16.5% increase since 2014.²

Of the 15,355 children, 12,073 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,417 of the 15,355 cases.⁴

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

• 52% of Oklahoma’s child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

• In 2018, Oklahoma reported 965 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁸

• Oklahoma reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 21 in 2017 to 47 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xii}

Oklahoma reported 1 total child victims of sex trafficking; the 1 reported was female.\textsuperscript{xii}

14,316 victims received post-response services while 88 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

\begin{itemize}
\item Foster Care and Adoptions
\begin{itemize}
\item 13,954 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
\item 8,634 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
\item 4,697 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 5,320 exited during the same year.
\item 2,238 of Oklahoma’s children were adopted while 4,014 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}
\end{itemize}

There was a 7.4\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased 13.7\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

239 children in Oklahoma aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 286 in 2016 and represents a 16.4\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

\begin{itemize}
\item Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 18.4 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
\item The average length of stay in Oklahoma of children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 28 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
\item The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
\item The average age of adopted children was 6 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
\end{itemize}
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 4,548 children in foster care within Oklahoma were living with non-relatives while 2,857 stayed with a relative.
- 527 children were staying in group homes while 68 children were classified as runaways.\textsuperscript{xxii}
- 4\% of households in Oklahoma in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.\textsuperscript{xxiii}
- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 9.5 months.\textsuperscript{xxiv}

Child Poverty

Oklahoma had 203,203 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 21\% of all children.\textsuperscript{xxv}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With a Relative Foster Parent</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a Non-Relative Foster Parent</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a Group Home</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccounted for/Runaway</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Poverty Over Time

- 26\% of Oklahoma’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\textsuperscript{xxvi}
- The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 15,099 in 2017 to 13,904 in 2018. This represents a 7.9\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xxvii}
- The state spent $36,079,112 on WIC in 2019, serving 91,650 people. This represents a 4.1\% decrease in total participants and a 9.2\% decrease in spending. \textsuperscript{xxviii}

- 621,370 people in Oklahoma were food insecure in 2017, including 213,720 children who struggled with hunger.\textsuperscript{xxix}

- 46.9\% of households in Oklahoma with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxx}
Health

Oklahoma had **4,085** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **8.1%** of infants born in Oklahoma in 2017.\(^{\text{xxxii}}\)

Oklahoma had a total of **5,670** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **11.1%** of all white babies were born premature while **15.8%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **11.4%**.\(^{\text{xxxii}}\)

There were **3,793** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Oklahoma in 2017, representing a rate of **30** in every 1,000 teen girls.\(^{\text{xxxiii}}\)

**387** infants under 1 died in Oklahoma in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **7.7** per 1,000.\(^{\text{xxxiv}}\)

### Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- **64%** Uninsured
- **26%** CHIP
- **10%** Medicaid

- **8.2%** of Oklahoma’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **83,000** children. Oklahoma is not a Medicaid expansion state.\(^{\text{xxxvi}}\)

- **516,560** children in Oklahoma were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a **1.1%** decrease from 2017.\(^{\text{xxxvii}}\)

- **206,350** children in Oklahoma were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a **2.7%** increase from 2017.\(^{\text{xxxviii}}\)
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 7,701 total arrests for children under 18 in Oklahoma in 2018.
- 567 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,641 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,146 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 426 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma in 2018. This is a decrease from 552 kids in 2015, representing a 22.8% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 18,000 (8%) of Oklahoma’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, Oklahoma did not report suicide numbers among children aged 10-14; There were 51 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 67 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oklahoma in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Oklahoma spent $455,081,824 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.
- $196,158,155 were allocated from the federal government and $258,923,669 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- The breakdown of the $196,158,155 in federal funding received in Oklahoma in 2016:
  - $13,343,818 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $58,456,242 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Oklahoma’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $19,152,229.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


x Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.
Oklahoma’s Children 2020


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


