Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Puerto Rico had 19,146 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,450 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 4,381 child victims of abuse or neglect in Puerto Rico in 2018, at a rate of 7.4 children per 1,000. This translates to an 43% decrease since 2013.²

Of the 4,381 children, no number was reported for first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children between ages 5 and 9, representing 1,360 of the 4,381 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 73% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 27% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- 76% of Puerto Rico’s child victims in 2017 were female while 24% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, Puerto Rico report 13 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹
- Puerto Rico reported 13 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁰
**Puerto Rico’s Children**

- Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 6 in 2017 to 3 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xii}

- Puerto Rico reported 1 total child victim of sex trafficking with no females reported and 1 male.\textsuperscript{xii}

- 3,891 victims received postresponse services while 4,465 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

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**Foster Care and Adoptions**

- 2,354 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 2,231 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 752 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 123 exited during the same year.
- 39 of Puerto Rico’s children were adopted while 279 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 50\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased from 0 to 39 in 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

29 children in Puerto Rico aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 31 in 2016 and represents an 6.4\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- The average length of stay in Puerto Rico for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 71.2 months.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 8.9 years old.\textsuperscript{xix}

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\textsuperscript{xiii} 6.4\% Decrease since 2016 in children aging out of foster care
Data from 2017 shows that 2,400 children in foster care within Puerto Rico were living with non-relatives while 672 stayed with a relative.

- 944 children were staying in group homes while 64 children were classified as runaways.

- There was no number reported of households in Puerto Rico in 2017 that 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 52.7 months.

**Child Poverty**

Puerto Rico had 339,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 56% of all children.

29% of Puerto Rico’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 20,293 in 2017 to 16,437 in 2018. This represents a 19.0% decrease.

The state spent $124,798,482 on WIC in 2019, serving 106,222 people. This represents a 5.7% decrease in total participants and a

44.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Puerto Rico in 2017 had children.

54% of children in Puerto Rico lived in families that received public assistance in 2018.
Health
Puerto Rico had 2,556 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 10.5% of infants born in Puerto Rico in 2017. xxviii

Puerto Rico had a total of 2,549 preterm births in 2017, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 14.3% of all white babies were born premature while 11.84% of Hispanic babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 11.9%. xxix

There were 2,650 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Puerto Rico in 2017, representing a rate of 12 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxx

163 infants under 1 died in Puerto Rico in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.7 per 1,000. xxxi

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018
- Public: 36%
- Private: 61%
- Uninsured: 3%

- 3.0% of Puerto Rico’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 19,000 children. Puerto Rico is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxiii

- 378,000 children in Puerto Rico were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP in 2018. This represents 6.8% decrease from 2017. xxxiv

- 18,000 children in Puerto Rico had both public and private coverage in 2018. This represents an 5.2% decrease from 2017. xxxv
Puerto Rico’s Children

Teens & Youth

- **23,000** (12%) of Puerto Rico’s youth (16-19 years old) were both not in school and not working in 2017.xxxvi

- In 2017, **17.1%** of children in Puerto Rico grades 9th - 12th seriously considered suicide.xxxvii

- **72** children died between the ages of 15 and 19 either by accident, homicide or suicide in Puerto Rico in 2017.xxxviii

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Puerto Rico spent **$22,150,340** 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.

- **$14,919,711** were allocated from the federal government and **$7,230,629** came from state and local funds.xxxix

Federal Funding Sources

- **42%** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **58%** as part of the Title IV-B Program.

- The breakdown of the **$14,919,711** in federal funding received in Puerto Rico in 2016:
  - **$3,740,865** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - **$1,031,280** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program xli
  - Puerto Rico’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **$15,342,629** xlii


