Rhode Island’s Children 2020

Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Rhode Island had 19,040 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,569 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 3,644 child victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island in 2018, at a rate of 17.8 children per 1,000. This translates to a 6.9% increase since 2013.²

Of the 3,644 children, 2,496 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 594 of the 53,664 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018
- 62% of victims experienced Neglect Only
- 19% of victims experienced Physical Abuse Only
- 14% of victims experienced Sexual Abuse Only
- 20% of victims experienced Multiple Maltreatment Types

Plans of Safe Care
- 81% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 19% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- 50% of Rhode Island’s child victims in 2017 were female and 50% were male.⁷

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- 25% African American
- 10% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 6% Asian
- 13% Hispanic
- 1% Multiple Race
- 1% White
- 1% Unknown
- 62% Unknown

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Asian
Hispanic
Multiple Race
White
Unknown

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Plans of Safe Care
- In 2018, Rhode Island reported 164 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁹
- Rhode Island reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **2,109** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **2,003** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **1,323** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **1,107** exited during the same year.
- **254** of Rhode Island’s children were adopted while **316** were waiting to be adopted.\(^{xv}\)

There was an **8.5%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased **1.6%** from 2017.\(^{xvi}\)

**129** children in Rhode Island aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from **329** in 2016 and represents an **10.4%** decrease.\(^{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **15.7** months in care.\(^{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Rhode Island for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **36.3** months.\(^{xix}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **7.5** years old.\(^{xx}\)
- The average age of adopted children was **4.7** years old.\(^{xxi}\)
Data from 2017 shows that 693 children in foster care within Rhode Island were living with non-relatives while 778 stayed with a relative.

- 337 children were staying in group homes while 9 children were classified as runaways.\(^{xxii}\)

- 3% of households in Rhode Island 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 10.6 months.\(^{xxiv}\)

**Child Poverty**

Rhode Island had 53,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.\(^{xxv}\)

33% of Rhode Island’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\(^{xxvi}\)

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 10,842 in 2017 to 10,103 in 2018. This represents a 6.1% decrease.\(^{xxvii}\)

The state spent $9,546,163 on WIC in 2019, serving 17,962 people. This represents a 5.2% decrease in total participants and a 3.4% decrease in spending. \(^{xxviii}\)

120,590 people in Rhode Island were food insecure in 2017, including 35,760 children who struggled with hunger.\(^{xxix}\)

29% of households in Rhode Island with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.\(^{xxx}\)
Health

Rhode Island had 795 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.7% of infants born in Rhode Island in 2017.\textsuperscript{xxxi}

Rhode Island had a total of 943 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.2% of all white babies were born premature while 11.3% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 414 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Rhode Island in 2017, representing a rate of 6.2 in every 1,000 teen girls. \textsuperscript{xxxiii}

66 infants under 1 died in Rhode Island in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000. \textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 2.2% of Rhode Island's children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 5,000 children. Rhode Island is a Medicaid expansion state.
- 112,369 children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents .3% decrease from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxvi}
- 35,902 children in Rhode Island were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 30.8% increase from 2017. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 2,373 total arrests for children under 18 in Rhode Island in 2018.
- 522 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 406 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 104 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 123 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island in 2018. This is a decrease from 198 kids in 2015, representing a 37.8% decline.

 Teens & Youth

- 4,000 (6%) of Rhode Island’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, Rhode Island did not report any suicides among children 10-14 or 15-19.
- 2 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Rhode Island in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Rhode Island spent $191,108,538 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.
- $60,650,079 were allocated from the federal government and $130,458,457 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E: 51%
- Title IV-B: 38%
- Medicaid: 8%
- Social Services Block Grant: 0%

- The breakdown of the $60,650,079 in federal funding received in Rhode Island in 2016:
  - $10,670,164 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $7,130,096 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Rhode Island’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $5,172,261.
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xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


x Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


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