In 2018, South Dakota had 15,531 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,217 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 1,426 child victims of abuse or neglect in South Dakota in 2018, at a rate of 6.6 children per 1,000. This translates to a 53.8% increase since 2014.\(^ii\)

Of the 1,426 children, 1,080 were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 231 of the 1,426 cases.\(^iv\)

82% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 18% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^vi\)

50% of South Dakota’s child victims in 2017 were female and 50% were male.\(^vii\)

In 2018, South Dakota reported 28 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^ix\)

South Dakota reported 3 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 5 in 2017 to 3 in 2018.  

South Dakota did not report the numbers for victims of sex trafficking.  

772 victims received post-response services while 184 non-victims received post-response services as well.  

Foster Care and Adoptions  

- 2,705 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.  
- 1,560 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.  
- 1,144 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 1,145 exited during the same year.  
- 183 of South Dakota’s children were adopted while 371 were waiting to be adopted.  

There was a 2.7% decrease in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system increased 1.1% from 2017.  

64 children in South Dakota aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 63 in 2016 and represents an 1.6% increase. 

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 17.4 months in care.  
- The average length of stay in South Dakota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 36.3 months.  
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.8 years old.  
- The average age of adopted children was 5.9 years old.

1.6% Increase since 2016 in children aging out of foster care.
Data from 2017 shows that 803 children in foster care within South Dakota were living with non-relatives while 368 stayed with a relative.

- 258 children were staying in group homes while 6 children were classified as runaways.

- 3% of households in South 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 6.7 months.

Child Poverty
South Dakota had 53,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.

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

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 6,047 in 2017 to 6,083 in 2018. This represents a 0.6% increase.

The state spent $8,349,716 on WIC in 2019, serving 16,730 people. This represents a 5.3% decrease in total participants and a 3.7% decrease in spending.

99,190 people in South Dakota were food insecure in 2017, including 34,970 children who struggled with hunger.

46.2% of households in South Dakota with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.
Health

South Dakota had 835 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.9% of infants born in South Dakota in 2017. xxxi

South Dakota had a total of 1,122 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.48% of all white babies were born premature while 7.71% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.44%. xxxii

There were 614 births to mothers aged 15-19 in South Dakota in 2017, representing a rate of 35 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiii

94 infants under 1 died in South Dakota in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.7 per 1,000. xxxiv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 5.9% of South Dakota’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 13,000 children. xxxvi South Dakota is not a Medicaid expansion state. xxxvii
- 74,208 children in South Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 7.1% decrease from 2017. xxxviii
- 20,129 children in South Dakota were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 9.9% decrease from 2017. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
• There were 4,886 total arrests for children under 18 in South Dakota in 2018.
• 408 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
• 657 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
• 819 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
• 150 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Dakota in 2018. This is a decrease from 228 kids in 2015, representing a 27% decline.

Teens & Youth
• 2,000 (5%) of South Dakota’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
• In 2017, South Dakota did not report any suicides for children aged 10-14. There were 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
• 11 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Dakota in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
• South Dakota spent $59,187,063 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.
• $25,212,518 were allocated from the federal government and $33,974,545 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
• The breakdown of the $25,212,518 in federal funding received in South Dakota in 2016:
  • $6,011,477 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  • $3,951,060 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  • South Dakota’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $4,327,718.
South Dakota’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


