Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Texas had 252,031 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 198,449 were referred for investigation.\(^i\)

There were 63,271 child victims of abuse or neglect in Texas in 2018, at a rate of 8.6 children per 1,000. This translates to an 3.2% decrease since 2014.\(^{ii}\)

Of the 63,271 children, 51,063 were first time victims.\(^{iii}\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 11,370 of the 63,271 cases.\(^{iv}\)

77% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 23% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^{vi}\)

52% of Texas’ child victims in 2017 were female while 48% were male.\(^{vii}\)

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- 76% were neglect only
- 9% were physical abuse only
- 8% were sexual abuse only
- 7% were multiple maltreatment

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Texas reported 1,216 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^{ix}\)
- Texas reported plans of safe care for all 1,216 infants. Texas is the only state that reported IPSE plans for 100% of screened in infants.\(^x\)
Child fatalities increased in 2018 from 186 in 2017 to 200 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xii}

Texas reported 28 total child victims of sex trafficking with 28 females and 0 males.\textsuperscript{xii}

36,676 victims received postresponse services while 16,495 non-victims received postresponse services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 52,361 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 32,960 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 20,497 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 19,403 exited during the same year.
- 5,748 of Texas’ children were adopted while 13,822 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{ xv}

There was a 2.5\% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 7.2\% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

1,164 children in Texas aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 1,210 in 2016 and represents an 3.8\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 17 months in care. \textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Texas for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 25.8 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 7.3 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.6 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Data from 2017 shows that 13,997 children in foster care within Texas were living with non-relatives while 11,222 stayed with a relative.xxii
- 3,941 children were staying in group homes while 242 children were classified as runaways.xxiii
- 4% of households in Texas in 2018 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiv
- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 6.8 months.xxv

Child Poverty
Texas had 1,921,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.xxvi

Child Poverty Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>State Poverty Rate</th>
<th>Poverty, Children Under 18</th>
<th>Poverty, Children Aged 5-17</th>
<th>Poverty, Children under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31% of Texas’ children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 62,460 in 2017 to 57,201 in 2018. This represents a 8.4% decrease.xxviii

The state spent $216,541,425 on WIC in 2019, serving 681,555 people. This represents an 8.7% decrease in total participants and an 8.8% decrease in spending.xxix

4,217,470 people in Texas were food insecure in 2017, including 1,658,680 children who struggled with hunger.xxx

55.4% of households in Texas with children received SNAP benefits in 2017.xxxi
Health
Texas had 32,162 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.4% of infants born in Texas in 2017.xxxii

Texas had a total of 40,799 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.6% of all white babies were born premature while 14.6% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.8%.xxxiii

There were 26,971 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Texas in 2017, representing a rate of 28 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

2,237 infants under 1 died in Texas in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000. xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 11.2% of Texas’ children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 873,000 children. Texas is not a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvi

- 3,456,176 children in Texas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 1.7% decrease from 2017. xxxvii

- 1,136,587 children in Texas were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 0.1% decrease from 2017. xxxviii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 55,458 total arrests for children under 18 in Texas in 2018.
  - 1,144 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
  - 10,127 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
  - 9,893 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
  - 3,963 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Texas in 2018. This is a decrease from 4,299 kids in 2015, representing a 7.8% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 134,000 (8%) of Texas’ youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
  - In 2017, there were 53 reports of children in Texas aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 260 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
  - 252 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Texas in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Texas spent $1,726,104,237 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.
  - $730,329,297 were allocated from the federal government and $828,042,006 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $730,329,297 in federal funding received in Texas in 2016.
  - $177,395,953 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $123,250,539 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Texas’ sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $131,992,735.
Texas’ Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.

xxiv Ibid.


xxvii Ibid.


xxxvii Ibid.


Texas’ Children 2020


