

Vermont's Children 2020

Child Maltreatment

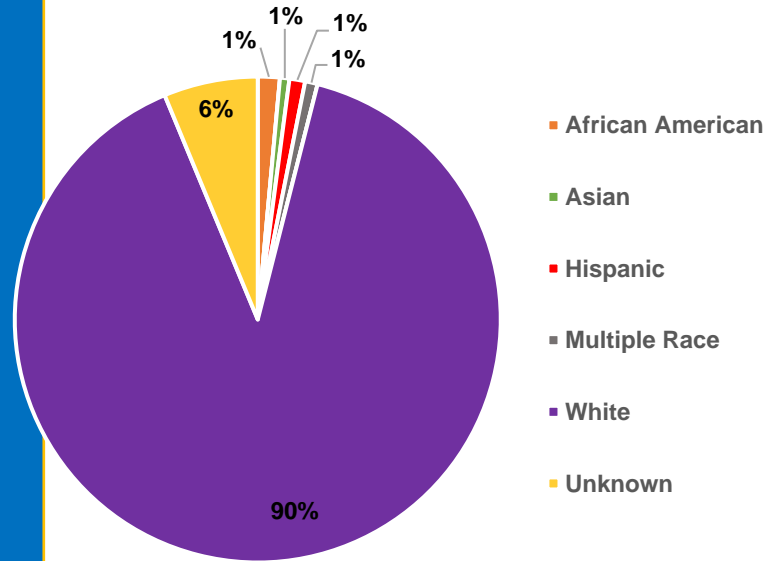
In 2018, Vermont had **19,472** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **4,055** were referred for investigation.ⁱ

There were **958** child victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont in 2018, at a rate of **8.3** children per 1,000. This translates to an **17.8%** increase since 2013.ⁱⁱ

Of the **958** children, **792** were first time victims.ⁱⁱⁱ

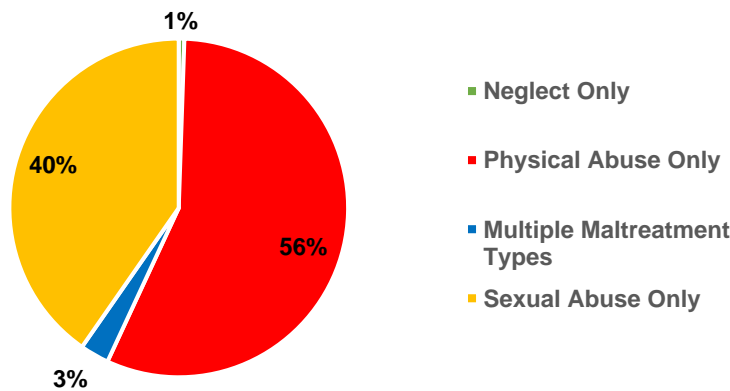
The largest age group of victims was children aged 15, representing **81** of the **958** cases.^{iv}

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



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Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018



- **53%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **47%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.^{vi}

- **62%** of Vermont's child victims in 2017 were female while **38%** were male.^{vii}

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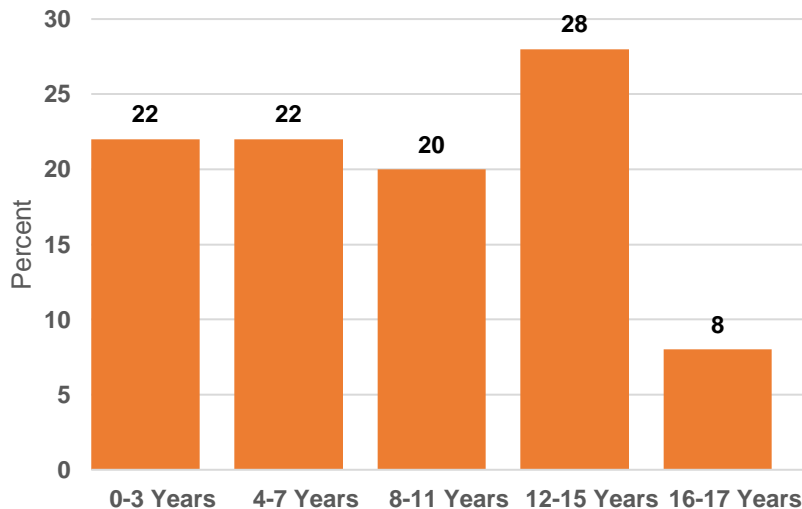
Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Vermont did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.^{ix}
- Vermont reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.^x



Vermont's Children 2020

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2017



- Child fatalities increased in 2018 from **0** in 2017 to **1** in 2018.^{.xi}

- Vermont did not report the number of sex trafficking victims for 2018.^{.xii}

- **350** victims received postresponse services while **780** non-victims received postresponse services as well.^{.xiii}

^{.xiv}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **2,045** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **1,308** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **881** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **740** exited during the same year.
- **262** of Vermont's children were adopted while **324** were waiting to be adopted.^{.xv}

There was a **3%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system decreased **8.7%** from 2017.^{.xvi}

12.3%
decrease since
2016 in children
aging out of
foster care

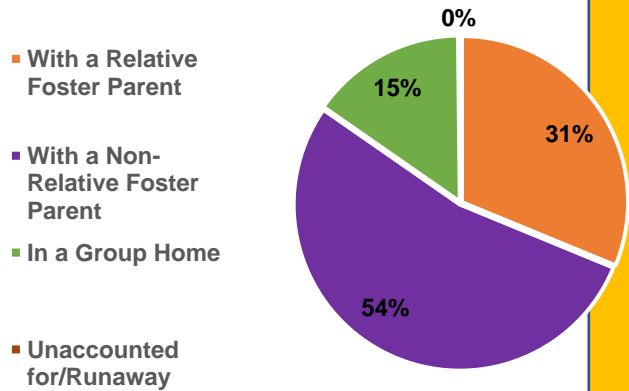
50 children in Vermont aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from **57** in 2016 and represents an **12.3%** decrease.^{.xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **18.4** months in care. ^{.xviii}
- The average length of stay in Vermont for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **32.2** months.^{.xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **8** years old.^{.xx}
- The average age of adopted children was **6.1** years old.^{.xxi}



Vermont's Children 2020

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?



- Data from 2017 shows that **596** children in foster care within Vermont were living with non-relatives while **348** stayed with a relative. .xxii

- 169** children were staying in group homes while **2** children were classified as runaways. .xxiii

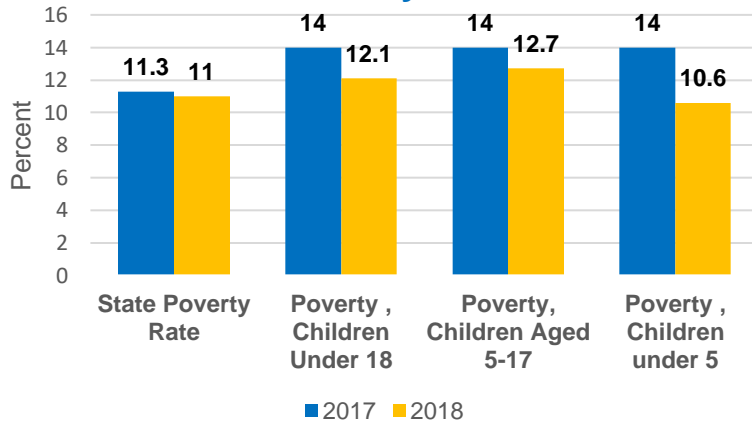
- 3%** of households in Vermont in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. .xxiv

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was **11.8** months. .xxv

Child Poverty

Vermont had **29,00** children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **25%** of all children. .xxvi

Child Poverty Over Time



31% of Vermont's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. .xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **6,023** in 2017 to **5,068** in 2018. This represents a **15.9%** decrease. .xxviii

The state spent **\$6,004,145** on WIC in 2019, serving **11,321** people. This represents a **0.9%** decrease in total participants and a **2.5%** decrease in spending. .xxix

74,520 people in Vermont were food insecure in 2017, including **18,760 children** who struggled with hunger. .xxx

30% of households in Vermont that received SNAP benefits in 2017 had children. .xxxi



Vermont's Children 2020

Health

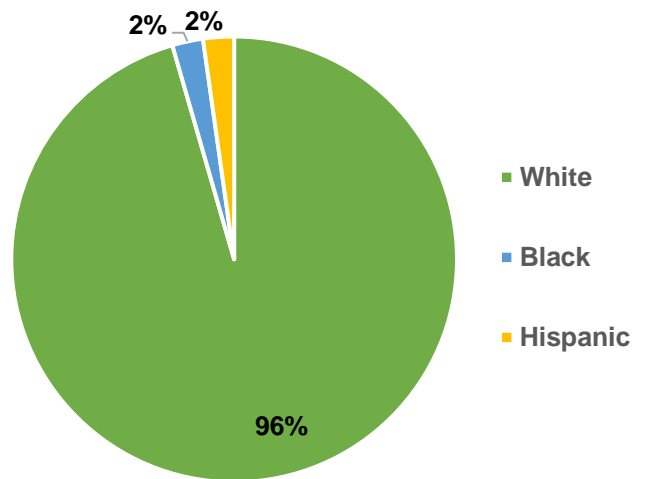
Vermont had **380** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **6.7%** of infants born in Vermont in 2017. .xxxii

Vermont had a total of **462** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **8.7%** of all white babies were born premature while **8.5%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **8.5%**. .xxxiii

There were **206** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Vermont in 2017, representing a rate of **10** in every 1,000 teen girls. .xxxiv

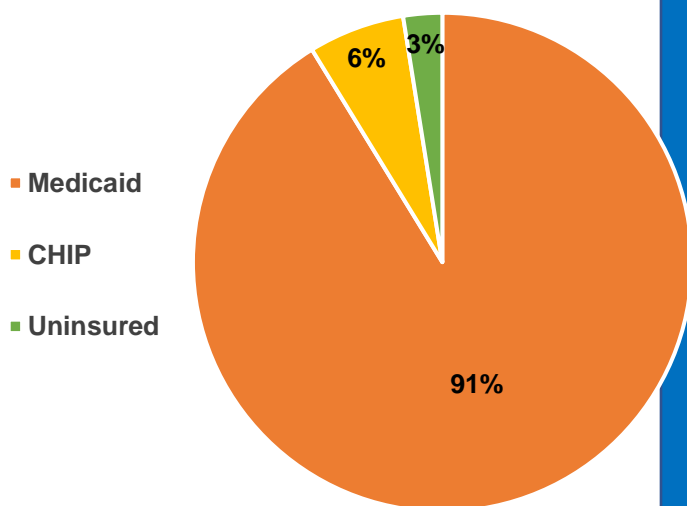
27 infants under 1 died in Vermont in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **4.8** per 1,000. .xxxv

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



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Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018



- **2%** of Vermont's children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **2,000** children. Vermont is a Medicaid expansion state. .xxxvii
- **72,339** children in Vermont were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents **2%** decrease from 2017. .xxxviii
- **4,942** children in Vermont were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an **15.4%** decrease from 2017. .xxxix



Vermont's Children 2020

33.3%

decline since
2015 of children
living in juvenile
correction
facilities

Juvenile Justice System

- There were **702** total arrests for children under 18 in Vermont in 2018.
- **79** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **100** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **38** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.^{.xi}
- **18** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont in 2017. This is a decrease from **27** kids in 2015, representing a **33.3%** decline.^{.xii}

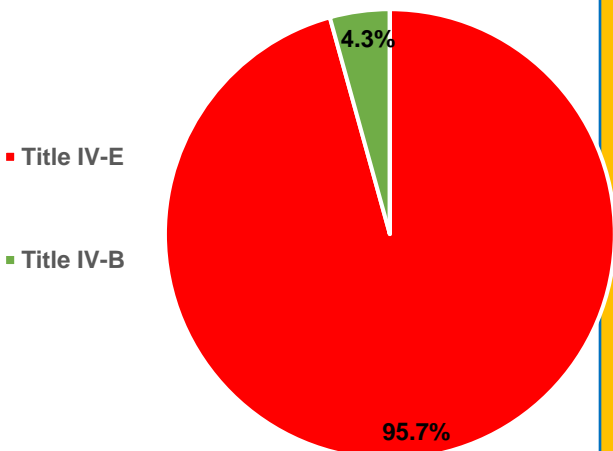
Teens & Youth

- **2,000** (5%) of Vermont's youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.^{.xiii}
- In 2017, there were **no** reports of children in Vermont aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **no** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.^{.xiii}
- **No** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Vermont in 2017.^{.xiv}

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Vermont spent **\$43,558,586** 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.
- **\$23,837,536** were allocated from the federal government and **\$19,721,050** came from state and local funds.^{.xiv}

Federal Funding Sources



- The breakdown of the **\$23,837,536** in federal funding received in Vermont in 2016. ^{.xvi}
- **\$11,188,317** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **\$10,889,768** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.^{.xvii}
- Vermont's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **\$3,065,473**.^{.xviii}



Vermont's Children 2020

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Vermont's Children 2020

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^{xx} Ibid.

^{xxi} Ibid.

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^{xxiv} Ibid.



Vermont's Children 2020

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Vermont's Children 2020

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