Child Maltreatment
In 2018, Vermont had 19,472 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,055 were referred for investigation.¹

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 2013.²

Of the 958 children, 792 were first time victims.²

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

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

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
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

**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
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Relative Foster Parent: 31%
- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent: 15%
- In a Group Home: 54%
- Unaccounted for/Runaway: 0%

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

- 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
**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

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**Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018**

- **White**: 96%
- **Black**: 2%
- **Hispanic**: 2%

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**Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018**

- **Medicaid**: 91%
- **CHIP**: 6%
- **Uninsured**: 3%

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- **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
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.
- 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.

Teens & Youth
- 2,000 (5%) of Vermont’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- 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.
- No children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Vermont in 2017.

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.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $23,837,536 in federal funding received in Vermont in 2016.
  - $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.
  - Vermont’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $3,065,473.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.

xxiv Ibid.


xxvii Ibid.


xxxi Ibid.


