**West Virginia’s Children 2020**

**Child Maltreatment**
In 2018, West Virginia had **41,320** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **26,572** were referred for investigation.

There were **6,946** child victims of maltreatment in West Virginia, at a rate of **19.1** children per 1,000. This translates to an **40%** increase since 2014.

Of the **56,946** children, **5,563** were first time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **1,360** of the **6,946** cases.

- **78%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **22%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.

- **51%** of West Virginia’s child victims in 2017 were female while **49%** were male.

**Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018**
- **Neglect Only**: **49%**
- **Physical Abuse Only**: **38%**
- **Multiple Maltreatment Types**: **13%**

**Plans of Safe Care**
- In 2018, West Virginia reported **1,093** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- West Virginia reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.
Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 18 in 2017 to 8 in 2018.xi

West Virginia did not report the number of sex trafficking victims for 2018.xii

7,269 victims received postresponse services while 7,308 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

7,269 victims received postresponse services while 7,308 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 11,567 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 7,138 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- 5,081 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 4,429 exited during the same year.
- 1,399 of West Virginia’s children were adopted while 2,376 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 7.6% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased 30.9% from 2017.xvi

93 children in West Virginia aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from 59 in 2016 and represents a 57.6% increase.xvii

57.6% Increase since 2016 in children aging out of foster care

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 12.7 months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in West Virginia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 19.9 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.9 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 5.9 years old.xxi
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Relative Foster Parent: 56%
- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent: 19%
- In a Group Home: 24%
- Unaccounted for/Runaway: 1%

- Data from 2017 shows that 3,478 children in foster care within West Virginia were living with non-relatives while 1,470 stayed with a relative. xxii
- 1,179 children were staying in group homes while 38 children were classified as runaways. xxiii
- 8% of households in West Virginia 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 4 months. xxv

Child Poverty

West Virginia had 139,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 37% of all children. xxvi

Child Poverty Over Time

- State Poverty Rate: 2017: 19.1, 2018: 17.8
- Poverty, Children Aged 5-17: 2017: 23, 2018: 23.4
- Poverty, Children under 5: 2017: 32, 2018: 27.7

- 22% of West Virginia’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii
- The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 14,378 in 2017 to 13,192 in 2018. This represents a 8.2% decrease. xxviii
- The state spent $16,085,396 on WIC in 2019, serving 32,674 people. This represents a 7.7% decrease in total participants and a 3.4% decrease in spending. xxix

268,070 people in West Virginia were food insecure in 2017, including 76,970 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

36% of households in West Virginia that received SNAP benefits in 2017 had children. xxxi
Health
West Virginia had 1,781 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.5% of infants born in West Virginia in 2017.xxxii

West Virginia had a total of 2,158 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 11.8% of all white babies were born premature while 14.2% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 11.8%.xxxiii

There were 1,416 births to mothers aged 15-19 in West Virginia in 2017, representing a rate of 27 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

131 infants under 1 died in West Virginia in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 7 per 1,000. xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- 3.4% of West Virginia’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 13,000 children. West Virginia is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii
- 236,174 children in West Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a 3.9% decrease from 2017. xxxviii
- 39,419 children in West Virginia were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a 5.2% increase from 2017. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 496 total arrests for children under 18 in West Virginia in 2018.
- 15 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 55 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 67 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xl
- 474 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia in 2017. This is a decrease from 567 kids in 2015, representing a 16.4% decline.xli

Teens & Youth
- 10,000 (11%) of West Virginia’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.xlii
- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in West Virginia aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xliii
- No children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in West Virginia in 2017.xliv

Child Welfare Services Funding
- West Virginia spent $267,066,025 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.
- $129,360,633 were allocated from the federal government and $137,705,392 came from state and local funds.xlv

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $129,360,633 in federal funding received in West Virginia in 2016.xlvi
  - $13,453,456 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $29,294,918 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlvi
- West Virginia’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $9,029,945.xlvii
West Virginia’s Children 2020


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.

xxiv Ibid.


xxvii Ibid.


xxxi Ibid.


