Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Wisconsin had 81,506 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 27,722 were referred for investigation.\(^i\)

There were 5,017 child victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin in 2018, at a rate of 3.9 children per 1,000. This translates to an 8.1% increase since 2013.\(^{ii}\)

Of the 5,017 children, 4,272 were first time victims.\(^{iii}\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 574 of the 5,017 cases.\(^{iv}\)

- 64% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 36% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^{vi}\)
- 54% of Wisconsin’s child victims in 2017 were female while 46% were male.\(^{vii}\)

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

 Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, Wisconsin did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^{ix}\)

- Wisconsin reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^{x}\)
• Child fatalities decreased in 2018 from 31 in 2017 to 24 in 2018.xi

• Wisconsin reported 71 total child victims of sex trafficking with 65 females and 6 males.xii

• 2,312 victims received postresponse services while 3,001 non-victims received postresponse services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **12,539** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- **7,819** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2018.
- **4,986** children entered care during the 2018 FY while **4,724** exited during the same year.
- **755** of Wisconsin’s children were adopted while **1,404** were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a **1.3%** increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also increased **9.1%** from 2017.xvi

372 children in Wisconsin aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is an increase from **329** in 2016 and represents an **13.1% increase**.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **18.3** months in care. xviii
- The average length of stay in Wisconsin for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in **38.3** months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **7** years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was **5.7** years old.xxi
Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Relative Foster Parent: 1%
- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent: 41%
- In a Group Home: 48%
- Unaccounted for/Runaway: 10%

- Data from 2017 shows that 3,555 children in foster care within Wisconsin were living with non-relatives while 3,057 stayed with a relative. xxii
- 746 children were staying in group homes while 86 children were classified as runaways.xxiii
- 2% of households in Wisconsin 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 10.7 months.xxv

Child Poverty

Wisconsin had 287,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 22% of all children.xxvi

23% of Wisconsin’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 35,007 in 2017 to 32,567 in 2018. This represents a 7% decrease.xxviii

The state spent $38,757,850 on WIC in 2019, serving 87,666 people. This represents a 5.2% decrease in total participants and a 6.3% decrease in spending. xxix

578,480 people in Wisconsin were food insecure in 2017, including 197,290 children who struggled with hunger.xxx

40.1% of households in Wisconsin that received SNAP benefits in 2017 had children.xxxi
Health
Wisconsin had 4,968 low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.7% of infants born in Wisconsin in 2017.xxxii

Wisconsin had a total of 6,348 preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9% of all white babies were born premature while 15.6% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 9.9%.xxxiii

There were 2,564 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Wisconsin in 2017, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

414 infants under 1 died in Wisconsin in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000. xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

- Medicaid: 26%
- CHIP: 7%
- Uninsured: 67%

- 3.8% of Wisconsin’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents 51,000 children. Wisconsin is not a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

- 517,743 children in Wisconsin were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents 2.3% decrease from 2017.xxxviii

- 196,416 children in Wisconsin were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents an 9.5% increase from 2017.xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 35,109 total arrests for children under 18 in Wisconsin in 2018.
- 6,994 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 4,622 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 3,150 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 630 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin in 2018. This is a decrease from 762 kids in 2015, representing a 17.3% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 15,000 (5%) of Wisconsin’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were 12 reports of children in Wisconsin aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 53 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 48 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Wisconsin spent $463,302,711 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.
- $162,599,091 were allocated from the federal government and $300,703,620 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- 72.2% Title IV-E
- 11.9% Title IV-B
- 6.4% Medicaid
- 2.9% Social Services Block Grant
- 0.1% Other Sources

- The breakdown of the $162,599,091 in federal funding received in Wisconsin in 2016.
- $6,959,295 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $48,157,134 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Wisconsin’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $28,259,887.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiii Ibid.

xxiv Ibid.


Ibid.


Wisconsin’s Children 2020


