Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Arizona had 76,334 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 41,986 were referred for investigation.

There were 9,954 child victims of abuse or neglect in Arizona in 2020, at a rate of 6.0 children per 1,000. This translates to an 23% decrease since 2016.

Of the 9,954 children, 8,166 were first time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,644 of the 9,954 cases.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 88% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 12% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.

- 51% of Arizona’s child victims in 2020 were female while 49% were male.

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Arizona reported 452 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.

- Arizona reported 0 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.
• Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 33 in 2019 to 18 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xi}

• Arizona reported no number for child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xii}

• 10,219 victims received post-response services while 46,141 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 22,258 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.

• 13,599 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.

• 9,365 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 8,659 exited during the same year.

• 2,905 of Arizona’s children were adopted while 3,643 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 2\% increase in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 13.9\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

802 children in Arizona aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from 881 in 2018 and represents an 9\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

• Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 15.3 months in care. \textsuperscript{xviii}

• The average length of stay in Arizona for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 26.3 months.\textsuperscript{xix}

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 6.9 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}

• The average age of adopted children was 6 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 5,494 children in foster care within Arizona were living with non-relatives while 6,603 stayed with a relative.

2,173 children were staying in group homes while 275 children were classified as runaways.\textsuperscript{xii}

5\% of households in Arizona in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.\textsuperscript{xiii}

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 8.8 months.\textsuperscript{xxiv}

\textbf{Child Poverty}

Arizona had 438,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27\% of all children.\textsuperscript{xxv}

28\% of Arizona’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.\textsuperscript{xxvi}

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 18,263 in 2020 to 15,441 in 2021. This represents a 15.4\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xxvii, xxviii}

The state spent 48,604,593 on WIC in 2021, serving 141,778 people. This represents a 0.1\% increase in total participants and a 7.5\% decrease in spending.\textsuperscript{xxix}

918,940 people in Arizona were food insecure in 2019, including 288,950 children who struggled with hunger.\textsuperscript{xxx}

46.3\% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Arizona in 2019 had children.\textsuperscript{xxxi}
Health

Arizona had 5,835 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.4% of infants born in Arizona in 2019.xxxii

Arizona had a total of 7,435 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.6% of all white babies were born premature while 13.4% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.4%.xxxiii

There were 4,318 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Arizona in 2019, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

429 infants under 1 died in Arizona in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.4 per 1,000. xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

9.2% of Arizona’s children had no health insurance in 2019. Arizona is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

869,569 children in Arizona were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 0.2% increase from 2019.xxxviii

120,401 children in Arizona were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 7.3% increase from 2019.xxxix
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 18,502 total arrests for children under 18 in Arizona in 2019.
- 1,299 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,839 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,970 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 606 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arizona in 2019. This is a decrease from 531 kids in 2017, representing a 14.1% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 29,000 (8%) of Arizona’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were 18 reports of children in Arizona aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 187 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 101 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arizona in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Arizona spent $900,139,286.00 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $512,028,405 were allocated from the federal government and $382,390,642 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $512,028,405.00 in federal funding received in Arizona in 2018:

- $21,005,210.00 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $141,245,150.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Arizona’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $58,022,312.
Arizona’s Children 2022


xv Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xiii Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.

xxvii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid


