In 2020, Connecticut had 43,786 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 11,030 were referred for investigation.\(^i\)

There were 6,346 child victims of abuse or neglect in Connecticut in 2020, at a rate of 8.8 children per 1,000. This translates to an 20.7% decrease since 2016.\(^ii\)

Of the 6,346 children, 4,611 were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 951 of the 6,346 cases.\(^iv\)

78% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 22% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^vi\)

51% of Connecticut’s child victims in 2020 were female while 49% were male.\(^vii\)

In 2020, Connecticut reported 2 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^ix\)

Connecticut reported zero plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **5,430** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **4,034** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **1,345** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **1,397** exited during the same year.
- **450** of Connecticut’s children were adopted while **1,398** were waiting to be adopted.

There was a **7.3%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased **31.9%** from 2019.

**110** children in Connecticut aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from **120** in 2018 and represents an **8.3%** decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **27.9** months in care.
- The average length of stay in Connecticut for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **28.4** months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **5.8** years old.
- The average age of adopted children was **5.5** years old.
Data from 2019 shows that 1,733 children in foster care within Connecticut were living with non-relatives while 1,738 stayed with a relative. 271 children were staying in group homes while 166 children were classified as runaways. xxii

3% of households in Connecticut in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild. xxiii

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 12.8 months. xxiv

Child Poverty
Connecticut had 197,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children. xxv

34% of Connecticut's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 13,426 in 2020 to 12,183 in 2021. This represents a 9.3% decrease. xxvii xxviii

The state spent $22,934,348 on WIC in 2021, serving 43,889 people. This represents a 0.3% increase in total participants and a 3.8% increase in spending. xxix

428,800 people in Connecticut were food insecure in 2019, including 109,480 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

31.4% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Connecticut in 2019 had children. xxxi
Health

Connecticut had 2,657 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.8% of infants born in Connecticut in 2019.xxxii

Connecticut had a total of 3,208 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.6% of all white babies were born premature while 12.5% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.4%.xxxiii

There were 902 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Connecticut in 2019, representing a rate of 8 in every 1,000 teen girls.xxxiv

153 infants under 1 died in Connecticut in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.5 per 1,000.xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

5.9% of Connecticut’s children had no health insurance in 2019. Connecticut is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

369,588 children in Connecticut were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 2.3% increase from 2019.xxxviii

21,609 children in Connecticut were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 8.8% decrease from 2019.xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 6,942 total arrests for children under 18 in Connecticut in 2019.
- 1,328 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,405 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 570 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 96 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut in 2019. This is a decrease from 99 kids in 2017, representing a 3% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 8,000 (4%) of Connecticut’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Connecticut aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 29 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 18 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Connecticut in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Connecticut spent $737,697,784 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.
- $333,067,515 were allocated from the federal government and $401,586,171 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $333,067,515 in federal funding received in Connecticut in 2018:
- $76,682,585 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $45,389,204 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Connecticut’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $16,211,628.
Connecticut's Children 2022


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xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiv Ibid


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.

xxxi Ibid.


xxxix Ibid


