Child Maltreatment
In 2020, Delaware had 18,240 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,845 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 1,200 child victims of abuse or neglect in Delaware in 2020, at a rate of 5.9 children per 1,000. This translates to an 3.3% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 1,200 children, 1,010 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 140 of the 1,200 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
- 29% Medical Neglect
- 15% Neglect
- 12% Other
- 12% Physical Abuse
- 9% Psychological Maltreatment
- 9% Sexual Abuse
- 9% Sex Trafficking
- 2% Unknown

67% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 33% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶

52% of Delaware’s child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, Delaware reported 28 infant who was screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁸
- Delaware reported 28 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁹
Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 13 in 2019 to 5 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

Delaware did not report any numbers regarding child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xii}

258 victims received post-response services while 919 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 821 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 481 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 275 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 340 exited during the same year.
- 116 of Delaware’s children were adopted while 149 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was an 16.5\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased 10.1\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

81 children in Delaware aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 30 in 2018.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.2 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Delaware for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 29.9 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.5 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.3 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 383 children in foster care within Delaware were living with non-relatives while 50 stayed with a relative.

99 children were staying in group homes while 2 children were classified as runaways. xxii

4% of households in Delaware in 2019 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 11.5 months. xxiv

**Child Poverty**

Delaware had 56,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 28% of all children. xxv

28% of Delaware’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 7,389 in 2020 to 7,332 in 2021. This represents a 0.8% decrease. xxvii xxviii

The state spent $6,559,310 on WIC in 2021, serving 17,199 people. This represents a 4% increase in total participants and a 10% increase in spending. xxix

114,190 people in Delaware were food insecure in 2019, including 32,830 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

43.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Delaware in 2019 had children. xxxi
Health

Delaware had 995 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.4% of infants born in Delaware in 2019.xxxii

Delaware had a total of 1,130 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.5% of all white babies were born premature while 14.2% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was 10.7%.xxxiii

There were 444 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Delaware in 2019, representing a rate of 15 in every 1,000 teen girls.xxxiv

66 infants under 1 died in Delaware in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000.xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

6.6% of Delaware’s children had no health insurance in 2019. Delaware is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

107,871 children in Delaware were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 0.1% decrease from 2019.xxxviii

13,573 children in Delaware were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 3.6% decrease from 2019.xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,924 total arrests for children under 18 in Delaware in 2019.
- 224 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 551 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 256 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 129 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware in 2019. This number remained the same since 2017.

Teens & Youth
- 3,000 (6%) of Delaware’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Delaware aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 12 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 15 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Delaware in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Delaware spent $75,636,023 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.
- $12,260,477 were allocated from the federal government and $62,276,637 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 72%
- Title IV-B: 15%
- TANF: 10%
- SSBG: 3%
- Medicaid: 0%
- Other Sources: 0%

The breakdown of the $12,260,477 in federal funding received in Delaware in 2018:
- $6,332,018 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $1,994,367 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Delaware’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $3,736,289.
Delaware’s Children 2022


Delaware’s Children 2022


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xli Ibid.


xiv Ibid


xvi Ibid.


xxxiIbid.


Delaware’s Children 2022


