Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Florida had 230,598 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 140,639 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 28,268 child victims of abuse or neglect in Florida in 2020, at a rate of 6.7 children per 1,000. This translates to an 14.1% decrease since 2016.\(^ii\)

Of the 28,268 children, 12,765 were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 4,501 of the 28,268 cases.\(^iv\)

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Florida had 1 report of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^ix\)

- Therefore, Florida did not report any plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
• Child fatalities increased in 2020 from 114 in 2019 to 101 in 2019.\textsuperscript{xii}

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

• 10,962 victims received post-response services while 8,979 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 37,230 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.

• 23,518 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.

• 13,392 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 13,712 exited during the same year.

• 4,534 of Florida’s children were adopted while 9,073 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 4.3\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 3.8\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

734 children in Florida aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from 1,026 in 2018 and represents an 28.5\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

• Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 16.8 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}

• The average length of stay in Florida for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 26.2 months.\textsuperscript{xix}

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}

• The average age of adopted children was 6.0 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 10,847 children in foster care within Florida were living with non-relatives while 10,040 stayed with a relative.

2,398 children were staying in group homes while 159 children were classified as runaways.xxii

4% of households in Florida 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 10.3 months.xxiv

**Child Poverty**

Florida had 1,135,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children.xxv

36% of Florida’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvi

The average number of individuals receiving TANF increased from 76,302 in 2020 to 68,287 in 2021. This represents a 10.5% decrease.xxvii

The state spent $180,059,475 on WIC in 2021, serving 403,160 people. This represents a 3.5% decrease in total participant and a 14.1% decrease in spending.xxviii

2,567,300 people in Florida were food insecure in 2019, including 723,540 children who struggled with hunger.xxix

38.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Florida in 2019 had children.xxx
Health

Florida had 19,231 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.7% of infants born in Florida in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxi}

Florida had a total of 23,361 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.3% of all white babies were born premature while 14.6% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.6%.\textsuperscript{xxxii}

There were 9,541 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Florida in 2019, representing a rate of 16 in every 1,000 teen girls. \textsuperscript{xxxiii}

1,330 infants under 1 died in Florida in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 6 per 1,000. \textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

- White: 39%
- Black: 31%
- Hispanic: 30%

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

- Medicaid: 11%
- CHIP: 15%
- Uninsured: 74%

7.6% of Florida’s children had no health insurance in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

2,308,619 children in Florida were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 1.9% increase from 2019. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}

461,716 children in Florida were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 2.2% decrease from 2019. \textsuperscript{xxxviii}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 44,634 total arrests for children under 18 in Florida in 2019.
- 0 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 11,457 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 3,881 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xxxix
- 2001 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Florida in 2019. This is a decrease from 2,712 kids in 2017, representing a 26.2% decline.xl

Teens & Youth
- 67,000 (7%) of Florida’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.xli
- In 2020, there were 35 reports of children in Florida aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 314 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.xlii
- 251 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Florida in 2020.xliii

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Florida spent $1,295,069,665 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.
- $776,840,104 were allocated from the federal government and $499,668,531 came from state and local funds.xliv

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 53%
- Title IV-B: 22%
- TANF: 19%
- SSBG: 6%
- Medicaid: 0%
- Other Sources: 0%

The breakdown of the $776,840,104 in federal funding received in Florida in 2018.xlv
- $15,494,060 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $136,398,445 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program. xlvii
- Florida’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $160,373,875.xlvii


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiv  Ibid.


xxvi  Ibid.


xxx  Ibid.


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