**Child Maltreatment**

In 2020, Georgia had 110,227 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 62,675 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 8,690 child victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia in 2020, at a rate of 3.5 children per 1,000. This translates to an 12.5% decrease since 2016.\(^2\)

Of the 8,690 children, 7,156 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,599 of the 8,690 cases.\(^4\)

**Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020**

- Medical Neglect
- Neglect
- Other
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological Maltreatment
- Sexual Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Unknown

- 78% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 22% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^5\)

- 52% of Georgia’s child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.\(^6\)

**Plans of Safe Care**

- In 2020, Georgia reported 3,769 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^7\)

- Georgia reported 2,656 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^8\)
• Child fatalities increased in 2020 from 68 in 2019 to 885 in 2020.xi

• Georgia reported 39 total child victims of sex trafficking.xii

• 6,431 victims received post-response services while 78,734 non-victims received post-response services as well.xiii

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 17,618 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.

• 11,370 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.

• 4,812 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 6,248 exited during the same year.

• 1,585 of Georgia’s children were adopted while 3,012 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 11.6% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also increased 5% from 2019.xvi

656 children in Georgia aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 640 in 2018 and represents an 2.5% increase.xvii

• Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 23.4 months in care.xviii

• The average length of stay in Georgia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 39.5 months.xix

• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.1 years old.xx

• The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.xxi
Data from 2019 shows that 7,480 children in foster care within Georgia were living with non-relatives while 3,347 stayed with a relative.

1,478 children were staying in group homes while 81 children were classified as runaways. xxii

5% of households in Georgia 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 14.3 months. xxiv

Child Poverty

Georgia had 650,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children. xxv

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

The average number of individuals receiving TANF dropped from 15,304 in 2020 to 14,725 in 2021. This represents a 3.9% decrease. xxvii xxviii

The state spent $80,932,419 on WIC in 2021, serving 184,857 people. This represents a 2.7% decrease in total participants and a 8% decrease in spending. xxix

1,279,310 people in Georgia were food insecure in 2019, including 377,400 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

46.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Georgia in 2019 had children. xxxi
**Health**

Georgia had **12,655** low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **10%** of infants born in Georgia in 2019.**xxi**

Georgia had a total of **14,763** preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **10%** of all white babies were born premature while **14.7%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was **11.7%**.**xxiii**

There were **7,090** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Georgia in 2019, representing a rate of **20** in every 1,000 teen girls. **xxiv**

**888** infants under 1 died in Georgia in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of **7** per 1,000. **xxxv**

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**Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020**

- **Medicaid**: 11%
- **CHIP**: 14%
- **Uninsured**: 75%

**7.4%** of Georgia’s children had no health insurance in 2019.**xxvii**

**1,337,100** children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents **2.9%** increase from 2019.**xxxviii**

**251,620** children in Georgia were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an **0.2%** increase from 2019.**xxxix**
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 5,176 total arrests for children under 18 in Georgia in 2019.
- 481 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,032 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 599 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 1,119 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia in 2019. This is an increase from 1,068 kids in 2017, representing a 4.8% increase.

Teens & Youth

- 48,000 (8%) of Georgia’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 24 reports of children in Georgia aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 28 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 209 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Georgia spent $879,830,040 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.
- $389,714,488 were allocated from the federal government and $490,115,552 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $389,714,488 in federal funding received in Georgia in 2018:

- $91,152,762 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $47,249,666 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Georgia’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $56,945,862.
Georgia’s Children 2022


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


x Ibid.

xxi Ibid.


xxiv Ibid


xxvi Ibid.


xxx Ibid.


Georgia’s Children 2022


xxxix Ibid


