Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Illinois had 79,944 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 79,944 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 35,437 child victims of abuse or neglect in Illinois in 2020, at a rate of 12.8 children per 1,000. This translates to an 8.5% increase since 2016.²

Of the 35,437 children, 23,628 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children age 1, representing 4,640 of the 35,437 cases.⁴

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

- African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Multiple Race
- Pacific Islander
- White
- Unknown

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

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

- 80% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 20% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

- 50% of Illinois’s child victims in 2020 were female while 49% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Illinois did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷

- Illinois reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
• Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 106 in 2019 to 102 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xi}

• Illinois did not report the number of sex trafficking victims for 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

• 19,634 victims received post-response services while 24,161 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

• 25,896 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020
• 20,568 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020
• 7,837 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 5,328 exited during the same year.
• 1,522 of Illinois’s children were adopted while 2,653 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 12.3\% increase in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased 12.9\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

540 children in Illinois aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a increase from 398 in 2018 and represents an 35.7\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

• Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 27.6 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
• The average length of stay in Illinois for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 45.8 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
• The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.6 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
• The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 7,049 children in foster care within Illinois were living with non-relatives while 7,428 stayed with a relative.  

1,255 children were staying in group homes while 328 children were classified as runaways.  

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

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 4.9 months.

**Child Poverty**  
Illinois had 669,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 24% of all children.

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

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 21,019 in 2020 to 21,373 in 2021. This represents a 1.7% increase.

The state spent $76,833,426 on WIC in 2021, serving 153,634 people. This represents a 6.5% decrease in total participants and a 19.1% decrease in spending.

1,211,410 people in Illinois were food insecure in 2019, including 336,810 children who struggled with hunger.

38.3% of households in Illinois that received SNAP benefits in 2019 had children.
**Health**

Illinois had 11,779 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.4% of infants born in Illinois in 2019.xxxii

Illinois had a total of 14,986 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.6% of all white babies were born premature while 15% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.7%.xxxiii

There were 5,883 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Illinois in 2019, representing a rate of 15 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxiv

794 infants under 1 died in Illinois in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.7 per 1,000. xxxv

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

- Medicaid: 36%
- CHIP: 51%
- Uninsured: 13%

7.4% of Illinois’s children had no health insurance in 2019. Illinois is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxvii

1,335,063 children in Illinois were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 1.7% decrease from 2019. xxxviii

330,376 children in Illinois were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 0.4% increase from 2019. xxxix
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 696 total arrests for children under 18 in Illinois in 2019.
- 95 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 66 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 123 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 834 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois in 2019. This is a decrease from 1,071 kids in 2017, representing a 22.1% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 40,000 (6%) of Illinois’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 15 reports of children in Illinois aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 198 reports of suicide among children aged 15-24.
- 196 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Illinois in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Illinois spent $1,089,469,632.77 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.
- $634,226,161.77 were allocated from the federal government and $433,117,339 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $634,226,161.77 in federal funding received in Illinois in 2018.
- $33,609,424 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $80,491,219 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Illinois’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $53,440,201.
Who Have a Plan of Safe Care,


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xi Ibid.


xxxix Ibid


