Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Iowa had 47,625 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 30,684 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 10,600 child victims of abuse or neglect in Iowa in 2020, at a rate of 14.6 children per 1,000. This translates to a 23.9% increase since 2016.\(^2\)

Of the 10,600 children, 7,132 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,549 of the 10,600 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.\(^5\)

- 51% of Iowa’s child victims in 2020 were female while 49% were male.\(^6\)

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Iowa reported 51 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^7\)

- Iowa reported 51 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^8\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **8,314** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **4,660** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **2,628** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **3,654** exited during the same year.
- **1,266** of Iowa’s children were adopted while **1,116** were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a **21.75%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also increased **3.09%** from 2019.xvi

**225** children in Iowa aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from **223** in 2018 and represents a **0.9%** increase.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **15.7** months in care.xviii
- The average length of stay in Iowa for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **26.6** months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.0** years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was **5.6** years old.xxi
Data from 2019 shows that 2,074 children in foster care in Iowa were living with non-relatives while 2,219 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

548 children were staying in group homes while 35 children were classified as runaways.xxiii

2% of households in Iowa in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 8.1 months.xxv

Child Poverty

Iowa had 141,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 20% of all children.xxvi

20% of Iowa’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 17,945 in 2019 to 16,906 in 2020. This represents a 5.8% decrease.xxviii

The state spent $22,833,576 on WIC in 2021, serving 58,807 people. This represents a 0.5% decrease in total participants and a 4.6% increase in spending.xxxi

297,800 people in Iowa were food insecure in 2019, including 94,270 children who struggled with hunger.xxxii

40.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Iowa in 2019 had children.xxxiii
Health
Iowa had 2,543 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.8% of infants born in Iowa in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Iowa had a total of 3,569 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.04% of all white babies were born premature while 12.85% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.48%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 1,460 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Iowa in 2019, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls. \textsuperscript{xxxvi}

189 infants under one died in Iowa in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.0 per 1,000. \textsuperscript{xxxvii}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

2.9% of Iowa’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 22,000 children. This is a Medicaid expansion state. \textsuperscript{xxxix}

336,481 children in Iowa were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 0.6% decrease from 2019. \textsuperscript{xl}

101,719 children in Iowa were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 3.05% decrease from 2019. \textsuperscript{xii}
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 8,901 total arrests for children under 18 in Iowa in 2019.
- 964 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,891 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 890 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 441 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa in 2019. This is a decrease from 585 kids in 2017, representing a 24.6% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 12,000 (7%) of Iowa’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Iowa aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 29 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 31 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Iowa in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Iowa spent $296,192,827 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.
- $151,352,571 were allocated from the federal government and $140,605,857 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $151,532,571 in federal funding received in Iowa in 2018:

- $22,067,658 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $40,703,703 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Iowa’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $28,325,174.
Iowa’s Children 2022


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Iowa’s Children 2022


