Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Maryland had 58,149 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,997 were referred for investigation. i

There were 7,242 child victims of abuse or neglect in Maryland in 2020, at a rate of 5.4 children per 1,000. This translates to a 3.6% increase since 2016. ii

Of the 7,242 children, 4,661 were first time victims. iii

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 565 of the 7,242 cases. iv

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Medical Neglect 55%
- Neglect 27%
- Other 18%
- Physical Abuse 0%
- Psychological Maltreatment 0%
- Sexual Abuse 2%
- Sex Trafficking 0%
- Unknown 1%

- 57% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 43% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship. vi

- 57% of Maryland’s child victims in 2020 were female while 43% were male. vii

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Maryland reported zero infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure. ix

- Maryland reported zero plans of safe care for screened-in infants. x
Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 55 in 2019 to 50 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xi}

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

1,306 victims received post-response services while 1,320 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

**Foster Care and Adoptions**

- 5,159 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 3,800 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 1,705 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 1,359 exited during the same year.
- 237 of Maryland’s children were adopted while 347 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 1.04\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 18.6\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

345 children in Maryland aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from 389 in 2018 and represents an 11.3\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 23.1 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Maryland for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 2020 was 41.8 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 1,399 children in foster care within Maryland were living with non-relatives while 1,591 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

558 children were staying in group homes while 29 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in Maryland 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 12.3 months. xxv

Child Poverty
Maryland had 315,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 24% of all children. xxvi

31% of Maryland’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 40,560 in 2019 to 50,278 in 2020. This represents a 24.0% increase. xxviii xxix

The state spent $44,063,297 on WIC in 2021, serving 119,658 people. This represents a 2.34% decrease in total participants and a 9.04% decrease in spending. xxx

640,180 people in Maryland were food insecure in 2019, including 195,960 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

37.1% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Maryland in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health

Maryland had 6,111 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 Maryland in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Maryland had a total of 7,211 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.85% of all white babies were born premature while 13.10% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.28%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 2,603 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Maryland in 2019, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

413 infants under one died in Maryland in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 18,857 total arrests for children under 18 in Maryland in 2019.
- 990 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,950 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,831 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 495 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland in 2019. This is a decrease from 549 kids in 2017, representing a 9.8% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 21,000 (7%) of Maryland’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 11 reports of children in Maryland aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 29 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 73 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Maryland in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Maryland spent $526,958,509 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.
- $148,450,598 were allocated from the federal government and $373,057,952 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $148,450,598 in federal funding received in Maryland in 2018:
  - $3,154,899 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $20,649,356 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Maryland’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $52,392,096.
Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3  

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