Child Maltreatment
In 2020, Minnesota had 80,567 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,329 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 6,647 child victims of abuse or neglect in Minnesota in 2020, at a rate of 5.1 children per 1,000. This translates to a 16.3% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 6,647 children, 6,044 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 965 of the 6,647 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
- 73% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 27% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 53% of Minnesota’s child victims in 2020 were female while 47% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, 1,685 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- Minnesota reported 1,414 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Child fatalities increased in 2020 from 17 in 2019 to 21 in 2020.¹¹

Minnesota reported 16 total child victims of sex trafficking.¹²

4,366 victims received post-response services while 9,473 non-victims received post-response services as well.¹³

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 13,192 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 7,763 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- 5,007 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 5,429 exited during the same year.
- 1,043 of Minnesota’s children were adopted while 1,869 were waiting to be adopted.¹⁵

There was an 7.6% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 22.6% from 2019.¹⁶

440 children in Minnesota aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 427 in 2018 and represents an 3.04% increase.¹⁷

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.3 months in care.¹⁸
- The average length of stay in Minnesota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 32.6 months.¹⁹
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.1 years old.²⁰
- The average age of adopted children was 6.3 years old.²¹
Data from 2019 shows that 2,312 children in foster care within Minnesota were living with non-relatives while 3,545 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

1,025 children were staying in group homes while 94 children were classified as runaways.xxiii

2% of households in Minnesota 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 11.4 months.xxxv

Child Poverty
Minnesota had 261,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 20% of all children.xxvi

21% of Minnesota’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 37,686 in 2019 to 35,196 in 2020. This represents a 6.6% decrease.xxxviii xxxix

The state spent $45,020,272 on WIC in 2021, serving 98,467 people. This represents a 2.3% decrease in total participants and a 0.4% decrease in spending. xxxi

432,170 people in Minnesota were food insecure in 2019, including 147,340 children who struggled with hunger.xxxii

38.5% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Minnesota in 2019 had children.xxxiii
Health

Minnesota had 4,537 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.9% of infants born in Minnesota in 2019.

Minnesota had a total of 6,107 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.73% of all white babies were born premature while 11.06% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.26%.

There were 1,791 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Minnesota in 2019, representing a rate of 10 in every 1,000 teen girls.

302 infants under one died in Minnesota in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.6 per 1,000.

3.1% of Minnesota's children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 42,000 children.

627,140 children in Minnesota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 3.9% decrease from 2019.

3,363 children in Minnesota were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 4.3% decrease from 2019.
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 18,594 total arrests for children under 18 in Minnesota in 2019.
- 1,933 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,968 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,412 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 948 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota in 2019. This is an increase from 675 kids in 2017, representing a 40.4% increase.

Teens & Youth
- 11,000 (4%) of Minnesota’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Minnesota aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 42 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Minnesota in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Minnesota spent $690,047,880 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.
- $204,696,335 were allocated from the federal government and $484,330,528 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $204,696,335 in federal funding received in Minnesota in 2018:
- $54,894,982 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $34,321,884 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Minnesota’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $31,859,130.


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


