Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Missouri had 83,169 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 55,303 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 4,449 child victims of abuse or neglect in Missouri in 2020, at a rate of 3.2 children per 1,000. This translates to a 18.8% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 4,449 children, 3,866 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 339 of the 4,449 cases.⁴

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Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 56% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 44% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 59% of Missouri’s child victims in 2020 were female while 41% were male.⁶

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Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, zero infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- Missouri reported zero plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 46 in 2019 to 44 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

Missouri had 10 reports of child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xii}

\textbf{2,703} victims received post-response services while \textbf{20,283} non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

**Foster Care and Adoptions**

- \textbf{19,044} total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- \textbf{12,650} were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- \textbf{6,499} children entered care during the 2020 FY while \textbf{6,394} exited during the same year.
- \textbf{1,652} of Missouri’s children were adopted while \textbf{2,583} were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 0.28\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 9.23\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xv}

\textbf{549} children in Missouri aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from \textbf{538} in 2018 and represents a 2.04\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of \textbf{18.9} months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Missouri for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is \textbf{34.7} months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was \textbf{7.7} years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was \textbf{6.3} years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 3,834 children in foster care within Missouri were living with non-relatives while 4,811 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

922 children were staying in group homes while 70 children were classified as runaways.xxiii

3% of households in Missouri 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 7.4 months.xxv

Child Poverty
Missouri had 352,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.xxvi

22% of Missouri's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 19,474 in 2019 to 19,721 in 2020. This represents a 1.27% increase.xxviii

The state spent $26,855,607 on WIC in 2021, serving 87,459 people. This represents a 11.65% decrease in total participants and an 29.44% decrease in spending.xxxi

809,680 people in Missouri were food insecure in 2019, including 202,900 children who struggled with hunger.xxxii

44.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Missouri in 2019 had children.xxxiii
Health

Missouri had 6,356 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.8% of infants born in Missouri in 2019.xxxiv

Missouri had a total of 7,832 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.97% of all white babies were born premature while 15.55% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.87%.xxxv

There were 3,851 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Missouri in 2019, representing a rate of 20 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

433 infants under one died in Missouri in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.0 per 1,000. xxxvii

6.5% of Missouri’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 95,000 children.xxxix

567,029 children in Missouri were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 4.39% decrease from 2019. xi

117,301 children in Missouri were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 2.18% increase from 2019. xli
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 10,435 total arrests for children under 18 in Missouri in 2019.
- 918 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,799 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,307 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 588 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri in 2019. This is a decrease from 780 kids in 2017, representing a 24.6% decline.

Teens & Youth

- 23,000 (7%) of Missouri’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 13 reports of children in Missouri aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 40 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 131 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Missouri in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Missouri spent $514,915,411 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.
- $324,499,562 were allocated from the federal government and $177,902,889 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E: 36%
- Title IV-B: 16%
- TANF: 17%
- Medicaid: 27%
- Social Services Block Grant: 3%
- Other Sources: 1%

The breakdown of the $324,499,562 in federal funding received in Missouri in 2018:

- $66,153,334 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $38,836,247 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Missouri’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $51,467,813.
Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3


Based on Calculations from the CWLA


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


