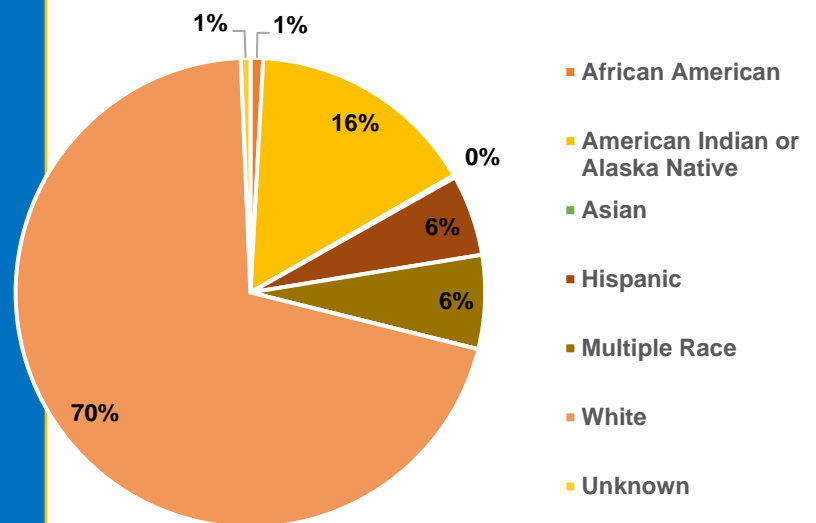# Montana's Children 2022

Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Montana had **14,386** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **10,120** were referred for investigation.[i]

There were **3,777** child victims of abuse or neglect in Montana in 2020, at a rate of **16.4** children per 1,000. This translates to a **21.2%** increase since 2016.[ii]

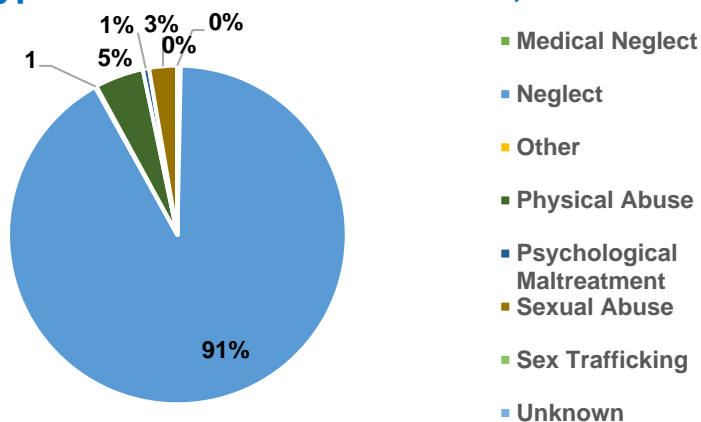Of the **3,777** children, **3,009** were first time victims.[iii]

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **448** of the **3,777** cases.[iv]

Child Victims by Race or Ethinicity, 2020

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

[v]

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

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

- **88%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. **12%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.[vi]

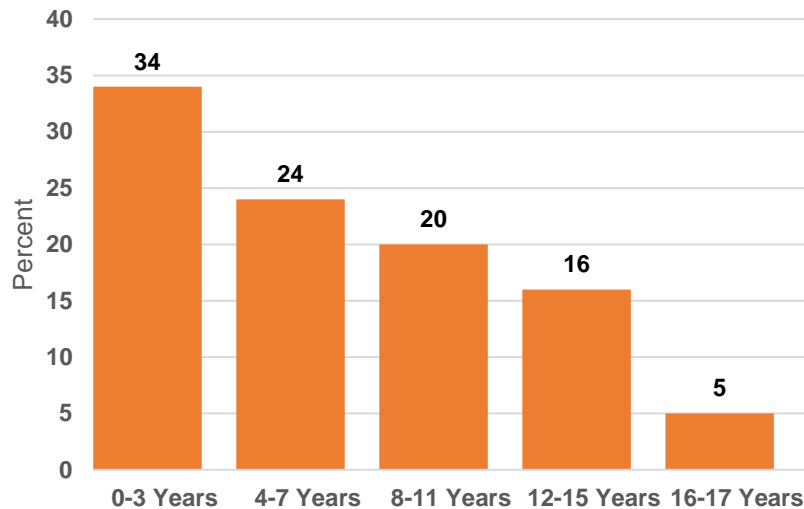- **49%** of Montana's child victims in 2020 were female while **51%** were male.[vii]

[viii]

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, **zero** infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.[ix]

- Montana reported **zero** of safe care for screened-in infants.[x]

Montana's Children 2022

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- Child fatalities increased in 2020 from **two** in 2019 to **five** in 2020.[xi]

- Montana had **one** report of child victims of sex trafficking.[xii]

- **2,019** victims received post-response services while **1,276** non-victims received post-response services as well.[xiii]

[xiv]

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **5,641** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **3,406** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **2,022** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **2,235** exited during the same year.
- **432** of Montana's children were adopted while **816** were waiting to be adopted.[xv]

There was a **7.87%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased **10.4%** from 2020.[xvi]

11.2%
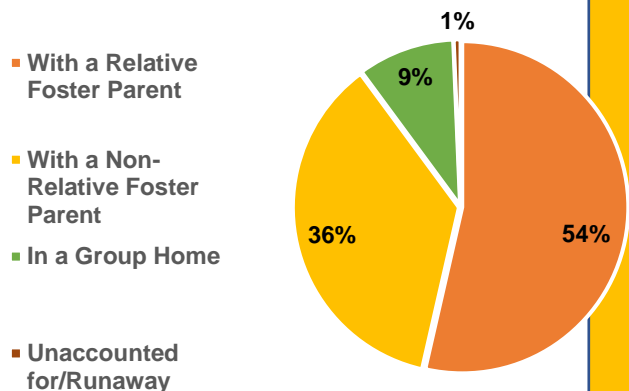Decrease since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

79 children in Montana aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from **89** in 2018 and represents a **11.2%** decrease.[xvii]

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **21.6** months in care. [xviii]
- The average length of stay in Montana for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **37.7** months.[xix]
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **8.3** years old.[xx]
- The average age of adopted children was **6.0** years old.[xxi]

Montana's Children 2022

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- With a Relative Foster Parent
- With a Non-Relative Foster Parent
- In a Group Home
- Unaccounted for/Runaway

Pie chart values: 1%, 9%, 36%, 54%

Data from 2019 shows that **1,096** children in foster care within Montana were living with non-relatives while **1,617** stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).[xxii]

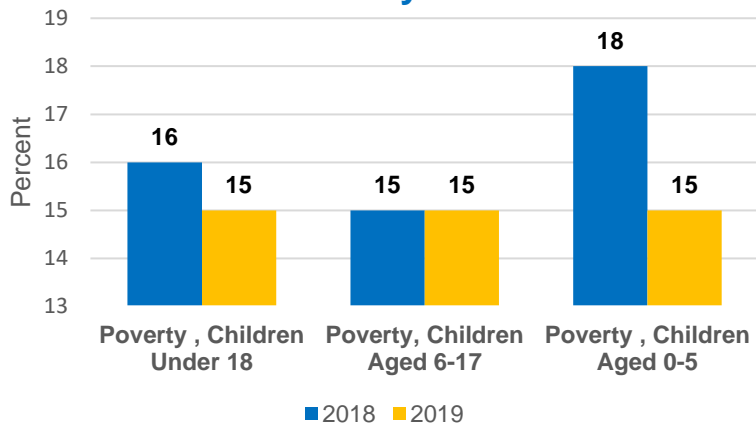**285** children were staying in group homes while **20** children were classified as runaways.[xxiii]

3% of households in Montana 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 **11.1** months.[xxv]

Child Poverty

Montana had **64,000** children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **28%** of all children.[xxvi] [xxvii]

Child Poverty Over Time

Category	2018	2019
Poverty, Children Under 18	16	15
Poverty, Children Aged 6-17	15	15
Poverty, Children Aged 0-5	18	15

(Y-axis: Percent)

23% of Montana's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.[xxviii]

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from **8,292** in 2019 to **7,198** in 2020. This represents a **13.2%** decrease.[xxix] [xxx]

The state spent **$4,709,288** on WIC in 2021, serving **14,185** people. This represents a **5.4%** decrease in total participants and a **7.6%** decrease in spending. [xxxi]

111,080 people in Montana were food insecure in 2019, including **35,500 children** who struggled with hunger.[xxxii]

38.5% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Montana in 2019 had children.[xxxiii]
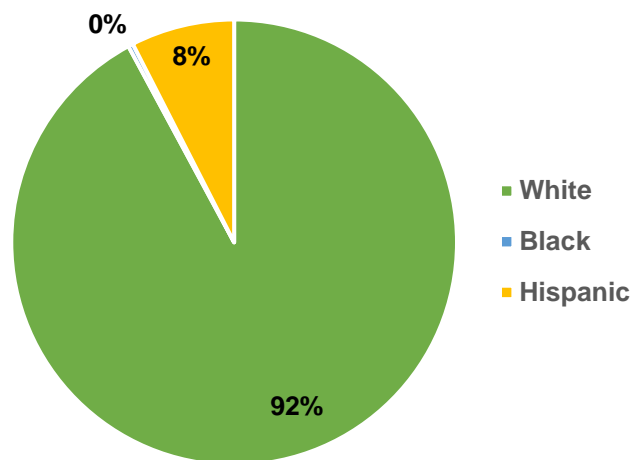
Montana's Children 2022

Health

Montana had **804** low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **7.3%** of infants born in Montana in 2019.[xxxiv]

Montana had a total of **1,064** preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **8.91%** of all white babies were born premature while there was **no reported percentage** of black babies that arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was **9.61%.**[xxxv]

There were **502** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Montana in 2019, representing a rate of **16** in every 1,000 teen girls. [xxxvi]
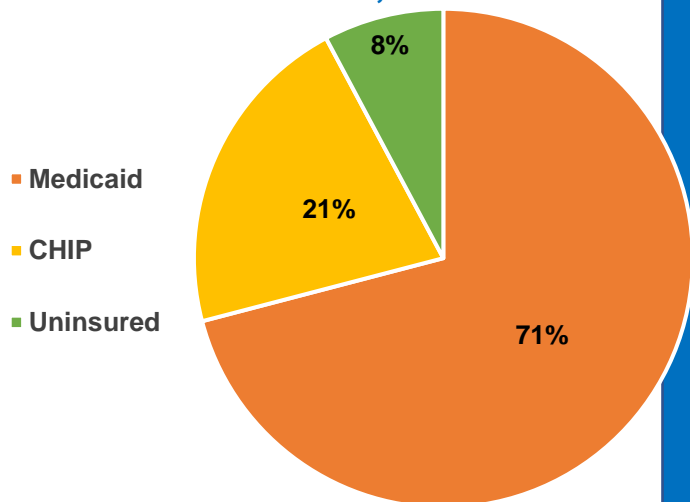
54 infants under one died in Montana in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of **4.9** per 1,000. [xxxvii]

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

- White
- Black
- Hispanic

0%
8%
92%

[xxxviii]

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

- Medicaid
- CHIP
- Uninsured

8%
21%
71%

6.2% of Montana's children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents **15,000** children.[xxxix]

136,470 children in Montana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a **3.8%** decrease from 2019. [xl]

40,927 children in Montana were in the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a **4.1%** decrease from 2019. [xli]

Montana's Children 2022

24.6%
decrease since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities

Juvenile Justice System

- There were **4,355** total arrests for children under 18 in Montana in 2019.
- **413** of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- **658** arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- **324** were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.[xlii]
- **138** children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Montana in 2019. This is a decrease from **183** kids in 2017, representing a **24.6%** decline.[xliii]
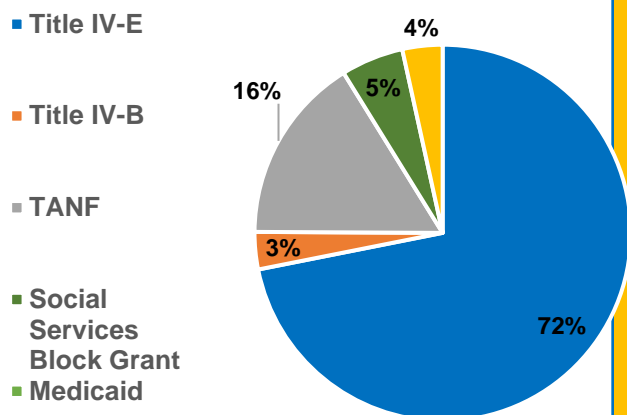
Teens & Youth

- **4,000** (7%) of Montana's youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.[xliv]
- In 2020, there were **zero** reports of children in Montana aged 10-14 committing suicide, and **13** reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.[xlv]
- **14** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Montana in 2020.[xlvi]

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Montana spent **$96,615,467** 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.
- **$37,176,565** were allocated from the federal government and **$57,764,997** came from state and local funds.[xlvii]

Federal Funding Sources

- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- Social Services Block Grant
- Medicaid

72%
16%
5%
4%
3%

The breakdown of the **$37,176,565** in federal funding received in Montana in 2018: [xlviii]

- **$12,548,327** as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- **$8,207,707** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program [xlix]
- Montana's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was **$5,907,488** [l]

[i] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[ii] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2016-2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

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[iv] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-5 Victims by Age, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[v] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-7 Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[vi] Child Trends, (2022). State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States, Child Maltreatment, Child Maltreatment Perpetrators, 2020. Retrieved March 7, 2022 from https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states

[vii] Child Trends, (2022). State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States, Child Maltreatment, Gender of maltreatment victims, 2020. Retrieved March 7, 2022 from https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states

[viii] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8 Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[ix] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-10 Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure by Submission Type, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[x] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-11 Screened-in Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure Who Have a Plan of Safe Care, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[xi] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4-2 Child Fatalities, 2016-2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

[xii] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). Child Maltreatment 2020. Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8 Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf

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xv U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), FY 2011 – FY 2020. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb.

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xviii Child Trends, (2022). State-level data for understanding child welfare in the United States, Foster Care, 2020. Retrieved March 7, 2022 from https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states

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xx Ibid.

xxi Ibid.

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xxvi Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Book. (2021). State Trends in Child Well-Being: Appendix B, Economic Well-Being Indicators, 2021. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.aecf.org/resources/2021-kids-count-data-book

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xxxii Feeding America. (2022). Map the Meal Gap 2019. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/Montana

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xl Medicaid.gov, Keeping America Healthy. (2021). Home, CHIP, Reports & Evaluations, Annual Enrollment Reports, 2020 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Report, Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in CHIP and Medicaid. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2020-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf

xli Ibid.

xlii U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2022). Crime in the United States 2019: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2019. Retrieved February 28, 2022 from https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-69

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