Child Maltreatment

In 2020, the US had 3,643,232 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,120,316 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 618,399 child victims of maltreatment in the US in 2020, at a rate of 8.4 children per 1,000. This translates to a 7.9% decrease since 2016.\(^2\)

Of the 618,399 children, 422,217 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 94,067 of the 618,399 cases.\(^4\)

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 77% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 23% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^5\)
- 52% of the Nation’s child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.\(^6\)

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, the US reported 30,774 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^7\)
- The United States reported 21,964 plans of safe care for screened-in infants from 11 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.\(^8\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **631,832** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **407,493** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **216,838** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **224,396** exited during the same year.
- **57,881** of the Nation’s children were adopted while **117,470** were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a **4.5%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions out of foster care decreased **12.6%** from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

**20,455** children in the US aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from **17,844** in 2018 and represents an **14.6%** increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **21.0** months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in the United States for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **32.7** months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.5** years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was **6.0** years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 196,139 children in foster care within the US were living with non-relatives while 134,017 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).  

44,902 children were staying in group homes while 4,129 children were classified as runaways.  

4% of households in the United States in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 10.3 months.

**Child Poverty**

The United States had 18,833,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.

30% of the Nation’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 2,044,817 in 2019 to 2,036,512 in 2020. This represents a 0.4% decrease.

The country spent $2,698,397,223 on WIC in 2021, serving 6,244,064 people. This represents a 0.05% decrease in total participants and a 6.5% decrease in spending.

38,300,000 people in the United States were food insecure in 2019, including 11,700,000 children who struggled with hunger.

Children accounted for 44% of all SNAP recipients nationwide in 2017.
Health
The Nation had 311,245 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.3% of infants born in the United States in 2019.xxxiv

The US had a total of 383,061 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.26% of all white babies were born premature while 14.39% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.23%.xxxv

There were 171,674 births to mothers aged 15-19 in the Nation in 2019, representing a rate of 17 in every 1,000 teen girls.xxxvi

20,921 infants under one died in in the US in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000.xxxvii

5.7% of the Nation’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 4,375,000 children.xxxix

35,197,225 children in the US were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 0.8% decrease from 2019.xi

9,062,750 children in the Nation were in the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 6.14% decrease from 2019.xl
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 485,964 total arrests for children under 18 in the United States in 2019.
- 36,877 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 87,710 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 55,701 children were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 36,479 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in the Nation in 2019. This is a decrease from 43,580 kids in 2017, representing a 16.3% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 1,115,000 (7%) of the United States’ youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 581 reports of children in the US aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 2,216 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 4,368 children aged 18 and under were killed by a firearm in the Nation in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- The United States spent $33,020,546,153 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.
- $14,513,863,072 were allocated from the federal government and $18,237,277,654 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E 56%
- Title IV-B 21%
- Medicaid 2%
- Social Services Block Grant 11%
- Other Sources 7%
- TANF 3%

The breakdown of the $14,513,863,072 in federal funding spent in 2018:
- $2,615,817,974 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $2,732,057,338 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- The United States' sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $2,774,505,540.
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-


xvii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xlii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xliii Ibid.


xx Ibid.

xlii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xlii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xliii Ibid.

xlii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xli Ibid.


