**Child Maltreatment**

In 2020, Nebraska had 33,889 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 13,194 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 2,376 child victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska in 2020, at a rate of 5.0 children per 1,000. This translates to a 14.6% decrease since 2016.²

Of the 2,376 children, 1,881 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 282 of the 2,376 cases.⁴

**Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020**

- 47% African American
- 21% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 8% Asian
- 6% Hispanic
- 5% Multiple Race
- 1% Pacific Islander
- 12% White
- 6% Unknown

**Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020**

- 76% Psychological Maltreatment
- 13% Physical Abuse
- 10% Medical Neglect
- 7% Neglect
- 1% Other
- 0% Sexual Abuse
- 0% Sex Trafficking
- 0% Unknown

- 74% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 26% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

- 55% of Nebraska’s child victims in 2020 were female while 45% were male.⁶

**Plans of Safe Care**

- In 2020, 196 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷

- Nebraska reported 20 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **5,479** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **3,605** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **2,069** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **1,874** exited during the same year.
- **433** of Nebraska’s children were adopted while **658** were waiting to be adopted.\(^{xv}\)

There was a **2.82%** increase in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased **22.68%** from 2019.\(^{xvi}\)

**109** children in Nebraska aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from **115** in 2018 and represents a **5.22%** decrease.\(^{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **17.7** months in care.\(^{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Nebraska for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **32.1** 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 **6.5** years old.\(^{xxi}\)
Data from 2019 shows that 1,510 children in foster care within Nebraska were living with non-relatives while 1,049 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

194 children were staying in group homes while 33 children were classified as runaways.xxiii

2% of households in Nebraska 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 8.7 months.xxv

Child Poverty
Nebraska had 91,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 19% of all children.xxvi

20% of Nebraska’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF rose from 9,127 in 2019 to 9,703 in 2020. This represents a 6.31% increase.xxviii

The state spent $13,477,286 on WIC in 2021, serving 35,075 people. This represents a 3.41% increase in total participants and an 13.47% decrease in spending.xxx

225,580 people in Nebraska were food insecure in 2019, including 71,560 children who struggled with hunger.xxxi

46.1% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Nebraska in 2019 had children.xxxii
Health

Nebraska had 1,872 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.6% of infants born in Nebraska in 2019.\(^{xxxiv}\)

Nebraska had a total of 2,596 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.97% of all white babies were born premature while 15.49% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.49%.\(^{xxxv}\)

There were 993 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Nebraska in 2019, representing a rate of 15 in every 1,000 teen girls.\(^{xxxvi}\)

125 infants under one died in Nebraska in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.0 per 1,000.\(^{xxxvii}\)

\(^{xxxviii}\) 5.7% of Nebraska’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 28,000 children.\(^{xxxix}\)

169,230 children in Nebraska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.5% increase from 2019.\(^{x}\)

62,225 children in Nebraska were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 2.28% increase from 2019.\(^{xii}\)
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 8,282 total arrests for children under 18 in Nebraska in 2019.
- 398 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,846 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,111 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 309 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nebraska in 2019. This is a decrease from 486 kids in 2017, representing a 36.4% decline.

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

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Nebraska spent $233,195,260 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.
- $45,293,824 were allocated from the federal government and $187,901,436 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $45,293,824 in federal funding received in Nebraska in 2018:
- $3,275,488 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $18,971,107 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Nebraska’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $9,805,416.
Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 1

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 5

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 6

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 7

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 8

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 9

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 10

Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 11
Nebraska’s Children 2022


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA

xxi Ibid.

xxii Ibid.


xxv Ibid.


Nebraska’s Children 2022


XXXiii Ibid.


XLI Ibid.


