Child Maltreatment

In 2020, North Carolina had 63,973 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. All 108,485 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 22,399 child victims of abuse or neglect in North Carolina in 2020, at a rate of 9.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 214% increase since 2016.²

First time victims not reported.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 3,053 of the 22,399 cases.⁴

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

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

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 84% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2019 were parents on the child. 16% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

- 50% of North Carolina’s child victims in 2020 were female while 50% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, North Carolina reported 226 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- North Carolina reported 152 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Foster Care and Adoptions

- 15,164 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 10,630 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- 5,119 children entered care during the FY 2020 while 4,535 exited during the same year.
- 1,521 of North Carolina’s children were adopted while 2,835 were waiting to be adopted.xv

There was a 5.2% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 1.6% from 2019.xvi

175 children in North Carolina aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an decrease from 184 in 2018 and represents a 4.8% decrease.xvii

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.8 months in care.xviii
- The average length of stay in North Carolina for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 36.1 months.xix
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.7 years old.xx
- The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.xxi

4.8%
Decrease since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from 5 in 2019 to 1 in 2020.xi

North Carolina reported 4 total child victims of sex trafficking.xii

13,264 victims received post-response services while 18,628 non-victims received post-response services as well. xiii

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4.8% Decrease since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?

- Foster Family Home - non-relative: 12%
- Foster Family Home - relative: 59%
- Group Home or Institution: 28%
- Runaway: 1%

Data from 2019 shows that 6,206 children in foster care within North Carolina were living with non-relatives while 2,940 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

1,327 children were staying in group homes while 73 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in North Carolina 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 7.7 months. xxv

Child Poverty

North Carolina had 607,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children. xxvi xxvii

26% (598,000) of North Carolina’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF increased from 22,784 in 2019 to 24,306 in 2020. This represents a 6.6% increase. xxix xxx

The state spent $91,480,873 on WIC in 2019, serving 207,351 people. This represents a 6.5% decrease in total participants and a 19% decrease in spending. xxxi

1,417,440 people in North Carolina were food insecure in 2019, including 419,470 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

38.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in North Carolina have children in 2019. xxxiii
Health
North Carolina had 11,047 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.1% of infants born in North Carolina in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

North Carolina had a total of 12,646 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.4% of all white babies were born premature while 14.3% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 10.6%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 6,168 births to mothers aged 15-19 in North Carolina in 2019, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

808 infants under 1 died in North Carolina in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.8 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}

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Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

- White: 51%
- Black: 34%
- Hispanic: 15%

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Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

- Medicaid: 20%
- CHIP: 9%
- Uninsured: 71%

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5.8\% of North Carolina’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 142,000 children.\textsuperscript{xxxix}

1,118,586 children in North Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 0.09\% decrease from 2019.\textsuperscript{xl}

309,267 children in North Carolina were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 2.5\% increase from 2019.\textsuperscript{xli}
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 12,088 total arrests for children under 18 in North Carolina in 2019.
- 670 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,798 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,400 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 744 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina in 2019. This is a increase from 366 kids in 2017, representing a 103.2% increase.

Teens & Youth
- 41,000 (7%) of North Carolina’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2019, there were 20 reports of children in North Carolina aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 70 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 177 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in North Carolina in 2019.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- North Carolina spent $678,852,511 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.
- $284,529,961 were allocated from the federal government and $392,676,284 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 52%
- Title IV-B: 32%
- Medicaid: 8%
- SSBG: 7%
- Other Sources: 0%
- TANF: 1%

The breakdown of the $284,529,961 in federal funding received in North Carolina in 2018:
- $152,165,659 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $55,694,112 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- North Carolina’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $68,666,985.


xxxii Ibid.


xii Ibid.


