Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Pennsylvania had 35,865 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. All were referred for investigation.¹

There were 4,582 child victims of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania in 2020, at a rate of 1.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 5.2% increase since 2016.²

Of the 4,582 children, 4,331 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims were 14-year-old children, representing 357 of the 4,582 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 56% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents on the child. 44% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵
- 61% of Pennsylvania’s child victims in 2020 were female while 39% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Pennsylvania reported no infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- Pennsylvania reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.⁸
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **22,416** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **14,354** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **7,254** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **8,062** exited during the same year.
- **2,087** of Pennsylvania’s children were adopted while **3,212** were waiting to be adopted.\(^\text{xv}\)

There was a **7.5%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased **26.7%** from 2019.\(^\text{xvi}\)

**1,085** children in Pennsylvania aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from **836** in 2018 and represents a **29.7%** increase.\(^\text{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **21.1** months in care.\(^\text{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Pennsylvania for children waiting to be adopted from foster care was **36.0** months.\(^\text{xix}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.7** years old.\(^\text{xx}\)
- The average age of adopted children was **6.0** years old.\(^\text{xxi}\)
Data from 2019 shows that 6,476 children in foster care within Pennsylvania were living with non-relatives while 6,092 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).

1,996 children were staying in group homes while 184 children were classified as runaways.

3% of households in Pennsylvania 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 14.9 months.

Pennsylvania had 676,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 26% of all children.

27% of Pennsylvania’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 101,975 in 2019 to 87,736 in 2020. This represents a 13.9% decrease.

The state spent $71,392,134 on WIC in 2021, serving 167,982 people. This represents a 9.9% decrease in total participants and an 13.1% decrease in spending.

1,353,730 people in Pennsylvania were food insecure in 2019, including 383,520 children who struggled with hunger.

33.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Pennsylvania in 2019 had children.
Health
Pennsylvania had 11,255 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.4% of infants born in Pennsylvania in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

Pennsylvania had a total of 13,319 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.0% of all white babies were born premature while 13.8% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.9%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 5,264 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Pennsylvania in 2019, representing a rate of 13 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

788 infants under 1 died in Pennsylvania in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.9 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

4.6% of Pennsylvania’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 128,000 children. Pennsylvania is a Medicaid expansion state.\textsuperscript{xxxix}

1,237,634 children in Pennsylvania were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.1% increase from 2019.\textsuperscript{xl}

357,620 children in Pennsylvania were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 4.0% increase from 2019.\textsuperscript{xli}
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 8,153 total arrests for children under 18 in Pennsylvania in 2019.
- 1,866 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,161 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 685 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 1,566 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania in 2019. This is a decrease from 1,791 kids in 2017, representing a 12.5% decrease.

Teens & Youth

- 31,000 (5%) of Pennsylvania’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 17 reports of children in Pennsylvania aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 56 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 169 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Pennsylvania in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Pennsylvania spent $1,904,832,232 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.
- $441,254,876 were allocated from the federal government and $1,441,260,588 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $441,254,876 in federal funding received in Pennsylvania in 2018:

- $112,232,165 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $111,033,471 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Pennsylvania’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $92,501,113.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


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xxi Ibid.

xxii Ibid.


xxiv Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


