Child Maltreatment
In 2020, Rhode Island had **15,816** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **5,966** were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were **2,743** child victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island in 2020, at a rate of **13.6** children per 1,000. This translates to a **7.2%** decrease since 2016.\(^2\)

Of the **2,743** children, **1,849** were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **421** of the **2,743** cases.\(^4\)

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- **Medical Neglect**: **49%**
- **Neglect**: **19%**
- **Other**: **12%**
- **Physical Abuse**: **4%**
- **Psychological Maltreatment**: **32%**
- **Sexual Abuse**: **4%**
- **Sex Trafficking**: **0%**
- **Unknown**: **1%**

- **79%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. **21%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.\(^5\)

- **50%** of Rhode Island’s child victims in 2020 were female and **50%** were male.\(^6\)

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Rhode Island reported **101** infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^7\)

- Rhode Island reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^8\)
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Foster Care and Adoptions

- 3,057 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 2,140 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- 880 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 917 exited during the same year.
- 152 of Rhode Island’s children were adopted while 364 were waiting to be adopted.

There was a 2.7% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 17.3% from 2019.

148 children in Rhode Island aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 134 in 2018 and represents an 10.4% increase.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 20.6 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Rhode Island for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 40.1 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.3 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 5.5 years old.

10.4% Increase since 2018 in children aging out of foster care

- Child fatalities decreased from three in 2019 to two in 2020.
- Rhode Island did not report the numbers for victims of sex trafficking.
- 1,338 victims received post-response services while 870 non-victims received post-response services as well.
Data from 2019 shows that 776 children in foster care within Rhode Island were living with non-relatives while 810 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

289 children were staying in group homes while 14 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in Rhode Island 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 13.8 months. xxv

Child Poverty
Rhode Island had 46,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 23% of all children. xxvi xxvii

29% of Rhode Island’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 9,682 in 2019 to 8,625 in 2020. This represents a 10.9% decrease. xxix xxx

The state spent $7,770,550 on WIC in 2021, serving 16,533 people. This represents a 1.9% decrease in total participants and a 9.7% decrease in spending. xxxi

101,100 people in Rhode Island were food insecure in 2019, including 28,350 children who struggled with hunger. xxii

30.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Rhode Island in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health
Rhode Island had 796 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.8% of infants born in Rhode Island in 2019.xxxiv

Rhode Island had a total of 970 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.3% of all white babies were born premature while 12.0% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.5%.xxxv

There were 359 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Rhode Island in 2019, representing a rate of 10.0 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

61 infants under 1 died in Rhode Island in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.0 per 1,000. xxxvii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

1.9% of Rhode Island’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 4,000 children.xxxix Rhode Island is a Medicaid expansion state.

109,418 children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents .3% increase from 2019. xl

32,526 children in Rhode Island were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 12.4% decrease from 2019. xli
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 2,176 total arrests for children under 18 in Rhode Island in 2019.
- 511 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 340 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 112 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 108 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island in 2019. This is a decrease from 123 kids in 2017, representing a 12.1% decrease.

Teens & Youth
- 3,000 (5%) of Rhode Island’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, Rhode Island did not report any suicides among children 10-14 or 15-19.
- Rhode Island did not report any children under age 19 killed by a firearm in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Rhode Island spent $188,605,661 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.
- $56,990,642 were allocated from the federal government and $129,218,262 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- 7% Title IV-E
- 14% Title IV-B
- 47% Medicaid
- 3% SSBG
- 2% Other Sources
- 3% TANF

The breakdown of the $56,990,642 in federal funding received in Rhode Island in 2018:
- $11,000,024 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $7,514,225 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Rhode Island’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $10,241,393.
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xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xv Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xvii Ibid.


xix Ibid.


