Child Maltreatment
In 2020, South Dakota had 14,131 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,449 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 1,570 child victims of abuse or neglect in South Dakota in 2020, at a rate of 7.2 children per 1,000. This translates to a 26.0% increase since 2016.¹²

Of the 1,570 children, 1,238 were first time victims.¹³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 254 of the 1,570 cases.¹⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
79% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 21% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.¹⁵

52% of South Dakota’s child victims in 2020 were female and 48% were male.¹⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, South Dakota reported 30 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.¹⁷
- South Dakota reported 13 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.¹⁸
Child fatalities increased from nine in 2019 to 12 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

South Dakota reported one total child victim of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xii}

851 victims received post-response services while 286 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 2,791 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 1,683 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 1,115 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 1,108 exited during the same year.
- 209 of South Dakota’s children were adopted while 446 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 1.3\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased 0.9\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

62 children in South Dakota aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 57 in 2018 and represents an 8.7\% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 18.2 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in South Dakota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 33.6 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.3 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 6.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 794 children in foster care within South Dakota were living with non-relatives while 456 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

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

4% of households in South Dakota 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 7.6 months.xxv

Child Poverty
South Dakota had 48,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 22% of all children.xxvi

21% of South Dakota’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 5,808 in 2019 to 5,596 in 2020. This represents a 3.6% decrease.xxx xxx

The state spent $6,349,852 on WIC in 2021, serving 15,896 people. This represents a 1.4% increase in total participants and a 15.4% decrease in spending. xxxi

91,510 people in South Dakota were food insecure in 2019, including 32,860 children who struggled with hunger.xxxii

45.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in South Dakota in 2019 had children.xxxiii
Health

South Dakota had 802 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.0% of infants born in South Dakota in 2019.\textsuperscript{xxxiv}

South Dakota had a total of 1,093 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.7% of all white babies were born premature while 11.1% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.5%.\textsuperscript{xxxv}

There were 536 births to mothers aged 15-19 in South Dakota in 2019, representing a rate of 19 in every 1,000 teen girls.\textsuperscript{xxxvi}

80 infants under 1 died in South Dakota in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.0 per 1,000.\textsuperscript{xxxvii}

\textbf{Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020}

- Medicaid: 17%
- CHIP: 16%
- Uninsured: 67%

7.8% of South Dakota’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 18,000 children.\textsuperscript{xxxix}

69,621 children in South Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 7.4% decrease from 2019.\textsuperscript{xl}

16,552 children in South Dakota were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 16.8% decrease from 2019.\textsuperscript{xli}
Juvenile Justice System
• There were 4,791 total arrests for children under 18 in South Dakota in 2019.
• 476 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
• 546 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
• 754 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
• 171 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in South Dakota in 2018. This is an increase from 150 kids in 2017, representing a 14.0% increase.

Teens & Youth
• 2,000 (5%) of South Dakota’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
• In 2020, South Dakota did not report any suicides for children aged 10-14, and 16 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
• 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Dakota in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
• South Dakota spent $68,367,469 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.
• $32,057,028 were allocated from the federal government and $35,237,243 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources

The breakdown of the $32,057,028 in federal funding received in South Dakota in 2018:
• $5,711,926 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
• $4,896,970 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
• South Dakota’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $6,401,018.
South Dakota’s Children 2022


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xx Ibid.


xxii Ibid.


