Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Texas had 232,662 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 186,660 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 65,116 child victims of abuse or neglect in Texas in 2020, at a rate of 8.8 children per 1,000. This translates to an 13.5% increase since 2016.²

Of the 65,116 children, 52,650 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 12,159 of the 65,116 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020

- 76% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 24% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁶
- 52% of Texas’ child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.⁷

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Texas reported 1,303 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁸
- Texas reported plans of safe care for all 1,303 infants.⁹
Child fatalities increased from 229 in 2019 to 255 in 2020.\textsuperscript{xii}

Texas reported 36 total child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{xiii}

35,403 victims received post-response services while 16,082 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

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Foster Care and Adoptions

- 47,543 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 29,991 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 16,434 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 17,552 exited during the same year.
- 5,249 of Texas’ children were adopted while 12,319 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xxi}

There was a 4.5% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 14% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

1,163 children in Texas aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is an increase from 1,148 in 2018 and represents a 1.3% increase.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 17.9 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Texas for children waiting to be adopted from foster care in 26.8 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.5 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.6 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 14,721 children in foster care within Texas were living with non-relatives while 9,794 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

3,707 children were staying in group homes while 211 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in Texas 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 6.9 months. xxv

**Child Poverty**

Texas had 1,864,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 25% of all children. xxvi xxvii

30% of Texas’ children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF decreased from 50,123 in 2019 to 45,523 in 2020. This represents a 9.1% decrease. xxix xxx

The state spent $201,764,686 on WIC in 2021, serving 668,613 people. This represents an 1.0% decrease in total participants and an 4.6% decrease in spending. xxxi

4,092,850 people in Texas were food insecure in 2019, including 1,448,490 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

53.4% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Texas in 2019 had children. xxxiii
**Health**

Texas had 31,802 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 Texas in 2019.xxxiv

Texas had a total of 41,634 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.8% of all white babies were born premature while 14.9% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 11.0%.xxxv

There were 24,109 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Texas in 2019, representing a rate of 24 in every 1,000 teen girls.xxxvi

2,075 infants under 1 died in Texas in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.5 per 1,000.xxxvii

12.7% of Texas’ children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 995,000 children.xxxix

3,348,893 children in Texas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 0.9% decrease from 2019.xl

905,469 children in Texas were in the state Chip Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 16.1% decrease from 2019.xli
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 49,409 total arrests for children under 18 in Texas in 2019.
- 960 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 9,351 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 8,464 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 3,699 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Texas in 2019. This is a decrease from 3,963 kids in 2017, representing a 6.6% decrease.

Teens & Youth
- 127,000 (8%) of Texas’ youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 57 reports of children in Texas aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 265 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 485 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Texas in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Texas spent $1,787,487,613 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.
- $746,648,125 was allocated from the federal government and $1,019,157,956 came from state and local funds.

The breakdown of the $746,648,125 in federal funding received in Texas in 2018:
- $177,029,686 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $134,753,932 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Texas’ sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $169,903,340.


Ibid.


Ibid.


