Child Maltreatment
In 2020, Utah had 39,498 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,997 were referred for investigation.¹

There were 9,694 child victims of abuse or neglect in Utah in 2020, at a rate of 10.4 children per 1,000. This translates to a 0.8% increase since 2016.²

Of the 9,694 children, 6,722 were first time victims.³

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 973 of the 9,694 cases.⁴

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020
- 30% Medical Neglect
- 22% Neglect
- 19% Other
- 14% Physical Abuse
- 14% Psychological Maltreatment
- 13% Sexual Abuse
- 3% Sex Trafficking
- 1% Unknown
- 1% Unknown

66% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child. 34% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.⁵

54% of Utah’s child victims in 2020 were female while 46% were male.⁶

Plans of Safe Care
- In 2020, Utah reported 407 infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.⁷
- Utah reported plans of safe care for 143 screened-in infants. This represents 35.1% of all IPSE cases in Utah.⁸
Utah’s Children 2022

Foster Care and Adoptions

- **4,094** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **2,373** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **1,625** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **1,721** exited during the same year.
- **518** of Utah’s children were adopted while **308** were waiting to be adopted.

There was a **4.6%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system decreased **18.9%** from 2019 to 2020.

123 children in Utah aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from **170** in 2018 and represents an **27.6%** decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **16.0** months in care.
- The average length of stay in Utah for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **24.4** months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.9** years old.
- The average age of adopted children was **5.6** years old.

• Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from **11** in 2019 to **6** in 2020.
• Utah reported **14** total child victims of sex trafficking.
• **9,190** victims received post-response services while **14,698** non-victims received post-response services as well.
Data from 2019 shows that 1,088 children in foster care in Utah were living with non-relatives while 746 stayed with a relative. xxii

205 children were staying in group homes while 24 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

2% of households in Utah 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 6.3 months. xxv

Child Poverty
Utah had 173,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 19% of all children. xxvi xxvii

24% of Utah’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxviii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 8,669 in 2019 to 7,458 in 2020. This represents a 14.0% decrease. xxix xxx

The state spent $17,100,405 on WIC in 2021, serving 37,290 people. This represents a 8.3% decrease in total participants and a 2.9% decrease in spending. xxxi

355,550 people in Utah were food insecure in 2019, including 113,700 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

51.3% of households that received SNAP benefits in Utah in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health

Utah had 3,481 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 8.3% of infants born in Utah in 2019.xxxiv

Utah had a total of 4,559 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.3% of all white babies were born premature while 14.3% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 9.7%.xxxv

There were 1,498 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Utah in 2019, representing a rate of 12 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

249 infants under age 1 died in Utah in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.3 per 1,000. xxxvii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

8.3% of Utah’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 82,000 children. Utah is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxix

214,602 children in Utah were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 8.7% decrease from 2019. xl

49,592 children in Utah were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 11.2% decrease from 2019. xli
Juvenile Justice System

- There were 11,334 total arrests for children under 18 in Utah in 2019.
- 330 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 2,330 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,968 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xlii
- 246 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Utah in 2019. This is a decrease from 222 kids in 2018, representing a 10.8% increase.xliii

Teens & Youth

- 12,000 (6%) of Utah’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.xliv
- In 2020, there were 12 reports of children in Utah aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 50 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlv
- 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Utah in 2020.xlvi

Child Welfare Services Funding

- Utah spent $193,300,757 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.
- $82,585,046 were allocated from the federal government and $108,102,529 came from state and local funds.xlvii

Federal Funding Sources

The breakdown of the $82,585,046 in federal funding received in Utah in 2018 is listed in the graph to the left.xlviii
- $4,144,621 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $10,799,812 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlix
- Utah’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $22,373,088.¹


xvii Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xii Ibid.


xv Ibid


xviii Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid


\(^{xlvii}\) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (2020). NCHS Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths: Bureau of Census for population estimates. Fatal Injury Reports 1999-2020, for national, regional and states. 2020, United States, firearm deaths and rates per 100,000; All races, both sexes, ages 0 to 19, outgroups: Year and state. Retrieved February 07, 2022 from https://wisqars.cdc.gov/fatal-reports


