**Child Maltreatment**

In 2020, Vermont had 81,867 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,216 were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were 530 child victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont in 2020, at a rate of 4.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 4.8% decrease since 2016.\(^2\)

Of the 530 children, 433 were first time victims.\(^3\)

The largest age group of victims was children aged one, representing 38 of the 530 cases.\(^4\)

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\(^2\) Of the 530 children, 433 were first time victims.

\(^3\) The largest age group of victims was children aged one, representing 38 of the 530 cases.

\(^4\) Plans of Safe Care

- In 2020, Vermont did not report the number of infants who were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^5\)
- Vermont reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^6\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- 1,741 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 1,078 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- 556 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 665 exited during the same year.
- 263 of Vermont’s children were adopted while 308 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 13.4\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system increased 1.2\% from 2019 to 2020.\textsuperscript{xvi}

57 children in Vermont aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 69 in 2019 and represents a 17.4\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 19.3 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Vermont for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 33.0 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.4 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 6.4 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}

\textsuperscript{xi} Child fatalities decreased in 2020 from one in 2019 to zero in 2020.

\textsuperscript{xii} Vermont did not report the number of sex trafficking victims for 2020.

\textsuperscript{xiii} 166 victims received post-response services while 416 non-victims received post-response services as well.

\textsuperscript{xiv}
Data from 2019 shows that 672 children in foster care in Vermont were living with non-relatives, while 294 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

164 children were staying in group homes while 2 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

4% of households in Vermont 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 10.9 months. xxv

Child Poverty
Vermont had 28,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 25% of all children. xxvi xxvii

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

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 4,557 in 2019 to 4,169 in 2020. This represents a 8.5% decrease. xxix xxx

The state spent $4,822,923 on WIC in 2021, serving 11,413 people. This represents a 1.9% decrease in total participants and a 1.7% increase in spending. xxxi

68,590 people in Vermont were food insecure in 2019 including 15,730 children who struggled with hunger. xxxii

29.6% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Vermont in 2019 had children. xxxiii
Health

Vermont had 351 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.6% of infants born in Vermont in 2019.xxxiv

Vermont had a total of 452 preterm births in 2019, meaning completed less than 37 weeks of gestation. 8.4% of all white babies were born premature while 11.3% of all black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 8.4%.xxxv

There were 152 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Vermont in 2019, representing a rate of 8 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

15 infants under one died in Vermont in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of which reporting standards were not met. xxxvii

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018

2.1% of Vermont’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents 3,000 children. Vermont is a Medicaid expansion state.xxxix

69,528 children in Vermont were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents 1.9% decrease from 2019. xl

4,748 children in Vermont were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an 11.0% decrease from 2019. xli
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 803 total arrests for children under 18 in Vermont in 2019.
- 101 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 135 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 27 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.xlii
- 18 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont in 2019. This represents no change from 2017.xliii

Teens & Youth
- 2,000 (4%) of Vermont’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.xliiv
- In 2020, there were no reports of children in Vermont aged 10-14 committing suicide, and no reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.xlv
- No children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Vermont in 2020.xlvi

Child Welfare Services Funding
Vermont spent $106,259,448.75 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. $45,249,330.75 were allocated from the federal government and $60,007,718.00 came from state and local funds.xlvii

Federal Funding Sources

The breakdown of the $45,249,330.75 in federal funding received in Vermont in 2018 (See Pie Chart). xlviii
- $10,948,165.00 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $9,918,250.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.xlix
- Vermont’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $7,765,536.1


xv Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA

xviii Ibid.

xxi Ibid.

xxii Ibid.


xxiv Ibid.


xxvi Ibid.


xxviii Ib. Ibid.

xxix Ibid.


xxxx Ibid


