Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Wisconsin had 72,064 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,159 were referred for investigation.\(^i\)

There were 4,177 child victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin in 2020, at a rate of 3.3 children per 1,000. This translates to a 13.4\% decrease since 2016.\(^ii\)

Of the 4,117 children, 3,519 were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 453 of the 4,177 cases.\(^iv\)

\(^i\)\(^iii\)\(^iv\)\(^v\)\(^vi\)\(^vii\)\(^viii\)\(^ix\)\(^x\)
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **11,434** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- **7,105** were in care on the day of September 30th, 2020.
- **4,001** children entered care during the 2020 FY while **4,329** exited during the same year.
- **748** of Wisconsin’s children were adopted while **1,412** were waiting to be adopted.\(^\text{xv}\)

There was a **7.2%** decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also increased **5%** from 2019 to 2020.\(^\text{xvi}\)

**387** children in Wisconsin aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is an increase from **373** in 2019 and represents an **3.6%** decrease.\(^\text{xvii}\)

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of **20.2** months in care.\(^\text{xviii}\)
- The average length of stay in Wisconsin for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **39.8** months.\(^\text{xix}\)
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was **7.0** years old.\(^\text{x}^\circ\)
- The average age of adopted children was **6.1** years old.\(^\text{x}^\iota\)
Data from 2019 shows that 3,586 children in foster care in Wisconsin were living with non-relatives while 2,931 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart). xxii

738 children were staying in group homes while 60 children were classified as runaways. xxiii

2% of households in Wisconsin 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 11.1 months. xxv

**Child Poverty**

Wisconsin had 266,000 children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 21% of all children. xxvi

22% of Wisconsin’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden. xxvii

The average number of individuals receiving TANF grew from 29,621 in 2019 to 30,612 in 2020. This represents a 3.3% increase. xxviii

The state spent $31,244,427 on WIC in 2021, serving 86,032 people. This represents a 1.4% decrease in total participants and a 13.9% decrease in spending. xxix

530,500 people in Wisconsin were food insecure in 2019, including 179,160 children who struggled with hunger. xxx

37.2% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Wisconsin in 2019 had children. xxxi
Health
Wisconsin had **4,788** low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **7.6%** of infants born in Wisconsin in 2019.***xxxiv***

Wisconsin had a total of **6,366** preterm births in 2019, meaning completed less than 37 weeks of gestation. **9.3%** of all white babies were born premature while **15.8%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was **10.1%**.***xxxv***

There were **2,318** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Wisconsin in 2019, representing a rate of **13** in every 1,000 teen girls. ***xxxvi***

**371** infants under one died in Wisconsin in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of **5.9** per 1,000. ***xxxvii***

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**Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020**

- **Medicaid**: 24%
- **CHIP**: 7%
- **Uninsured**: 69%

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**3.8%** of Wisconsin’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represents **51,000** children.

**510,310** children in Wisconsin were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents **1.3%** increase from 2019. ***xxxx***

**172,724** children in Wisconsin were in the state Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents an **8.5%** decrease from 2019. ***xl***
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 33,383 total arrests for children under 18 in Wisconsin in 2019.
- 6,763 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,872 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 2,710 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 477 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin in 2019. This is a decrease from 630 kids in 2019, representing a 24.3% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 16,000 (5%) of Wisconsin’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were 11 reports of children in Wisconsin aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 33 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 59 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
Wisconsin spent $499,074,263.86 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. $170,890,698.86 were allocated from the federal government and $321,469,370.00 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E
- Title IV-B
- TANF
- Social Services Block Grant
- Medicaid
- Other Sources

The breakdown of the $170,890,698.86 in federal funding received in Wisconsin in 2018.
- $8,918,975 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $47,745,728 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Wisconsin’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $43,011,478.
Wisconsin’s Children 2022


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xx Ibid.

xx Ibid.


xviii Ibid.


Wisconsin’s Children 2022


xxxi Ibid.


