

Arkansas' Children

Child Maltreatment

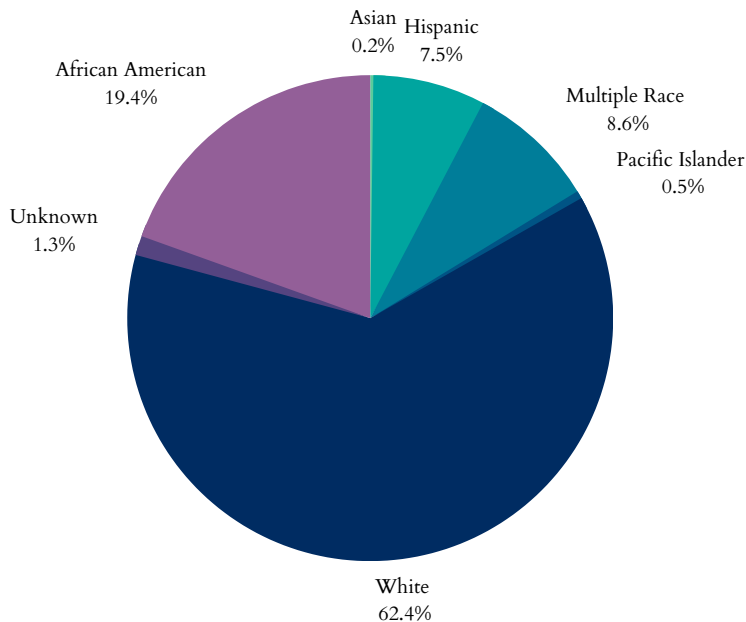
In 2021, Arkansas had 55,110 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 30,592 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 9,616 child victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas in 2021, at a rate of 13.7 children per 1,000. This translates to a 3.0% increase since 2017.

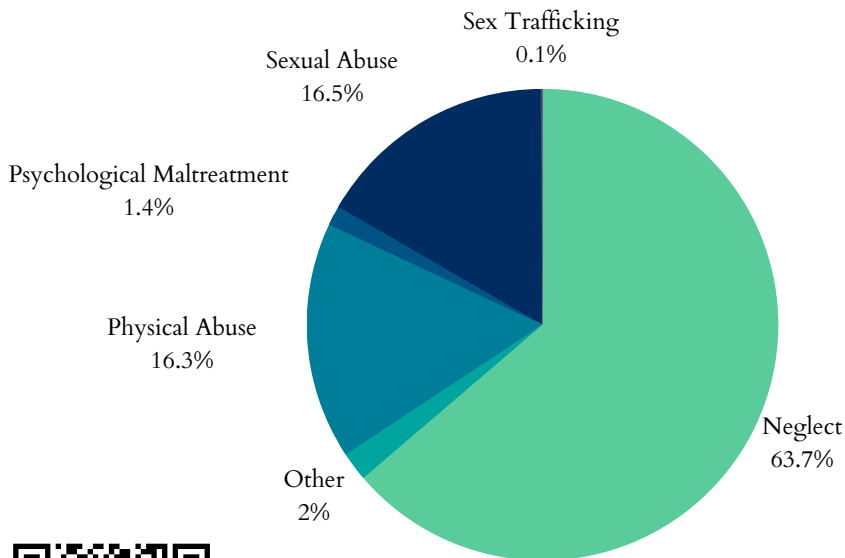
Of the 9,616 children, 7,940 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 2,163 of the 9,616 cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- 68% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 32% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 55% of Arkansas' child victims in 2020 were female while 45% were male.

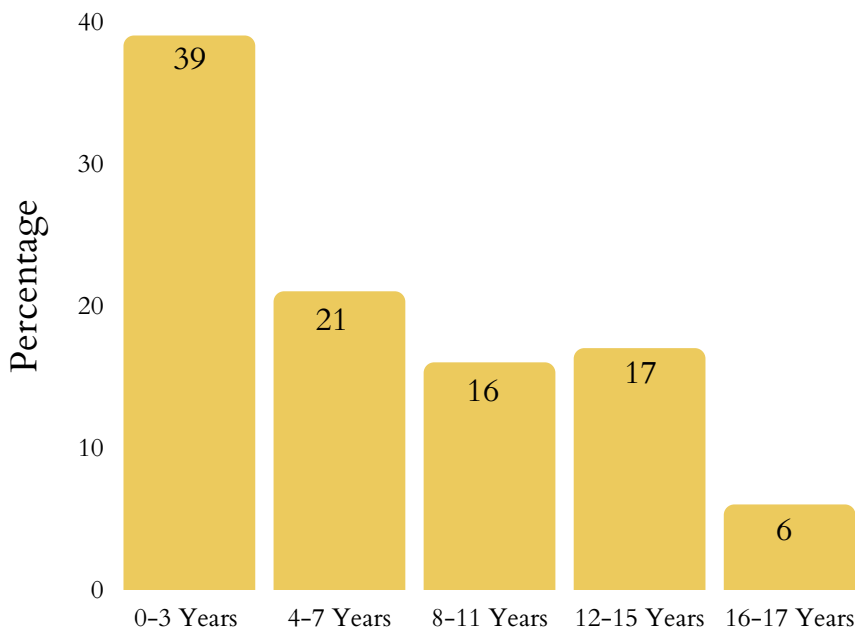
Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Arkansas reported 1,558 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Arkansas reported 1,383 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



- Child fatalities have increased from 30 in 2020 to 36 in 2021.
- Arkansas reported 14 child victims of sex trafficking.
- 8,467 victims received post-response services while 8,509 non-victims received post-response services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

- Arkansas has a plan approved by the administration.
- Arkansas' Family First Plan

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 7,151 total children were served by the foster care system in Arkansas in FY 2021.
- 4,500 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 2,949 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 2,655 exited during the same year.
- 768 of Arkansas' children were adopted while 1,228 were waiting to be adopted.

1.7%

The decrease since 2019 in children aging out of foster care.

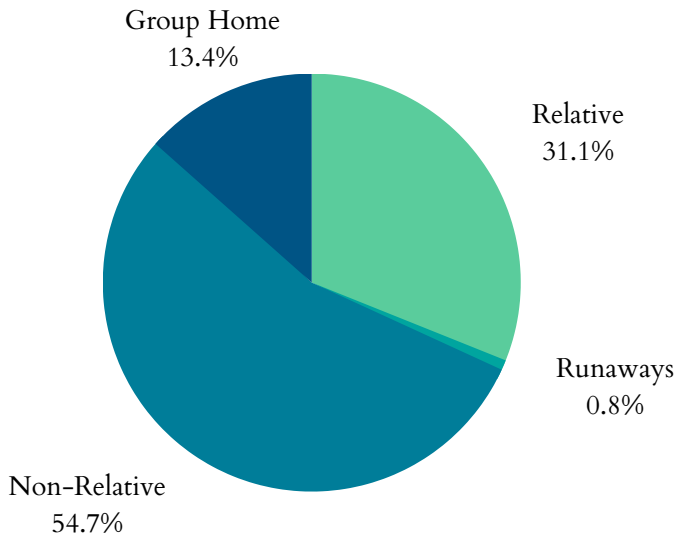
There was a 5.1% increase in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 1.2% from 2020.

228 children in Arkansas aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 232 in 2019 and represents a 1.7% decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 16.2 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Arkansas for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 34.0 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 9.1 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 6.4 years old.

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?, 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 2,120 children in foster care within Arkansas were living with non-relatives while 1,204 stayed with a relative.

521 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 30 children were classified as runaways.

4% of households in Arkansas in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 5.2 months.

Child Poverty

Arkansas had 210,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 30% of all children.

25% of Arkansas' children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

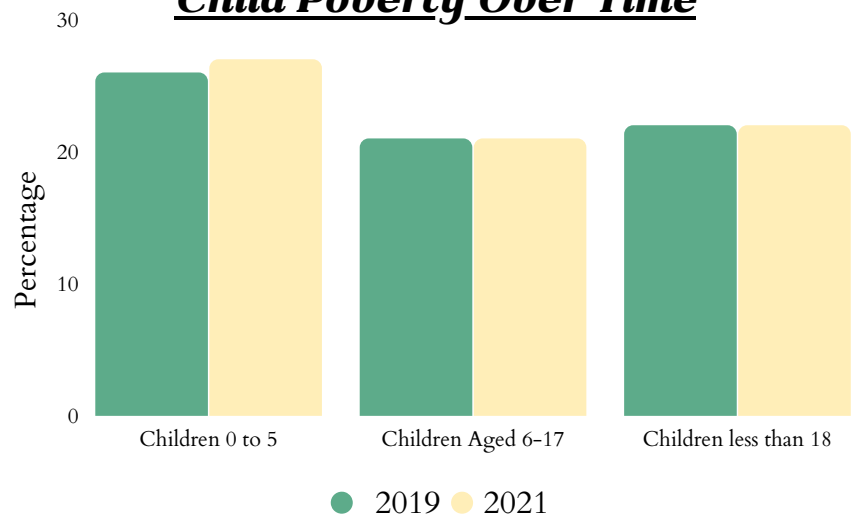
The average number of TANF recipients fell from 3,717 in 2021 to 2,597 in 2022. This represents a 30.1% decrease.

The state spent \$22,781,645 on WIC in 2022, serving 56,008 people. This represents a 10.4% increase in total participants and a 13.1% increase in spending.

444,130 people in Arkansas were food insecure in 2020, including 138,410 children who struggled with hunger.

48.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Arkansas in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time



Arkansas' Children

Health

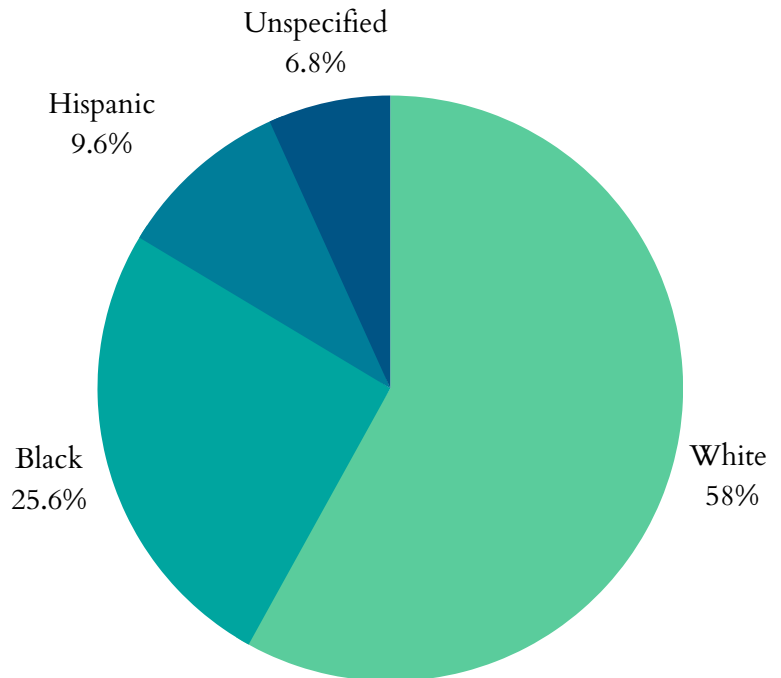
Arkansas had 3,388 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.6% of infants born in Arkansas in 2020.

Arkansas had 4,142 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.9% of all White babies were born prematurely while 14.7% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 11.76%.

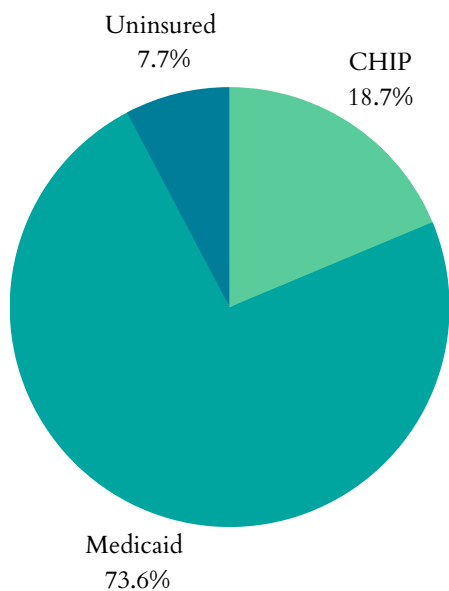
There were 2,676 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Arkansas in 2020, representing a rate of 28 in every 1,000 teen girls.

264 infants under 1 died in Arkansas in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 7.5 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020



Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019



43,000 of Arkansas' children had no health insurance in 2021. This is the same as 2019.

Arkansas is a medicaid expansion state as of January 2014.

401,436 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 2.0% decrease from 2019.

104,865 children in Arkansas were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 0.8% increase from 2019.

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Juvenile Justice

- There were 7,809 total arrests for children under 18 in Arkansas in 2019.
- 690 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,425 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 823 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 465 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas in 2019. This is a decrease from 585 kids in 2017, representing a 20.5% decline.

20.5%

The decrease since 2017 of children living in juvenile correction facilities.

Teens & Youth

- 16,000 (10%) of Arkansas' youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were 0 reports of children in Arkansas aged 10-14 committing suicide and 78 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 77 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2020.

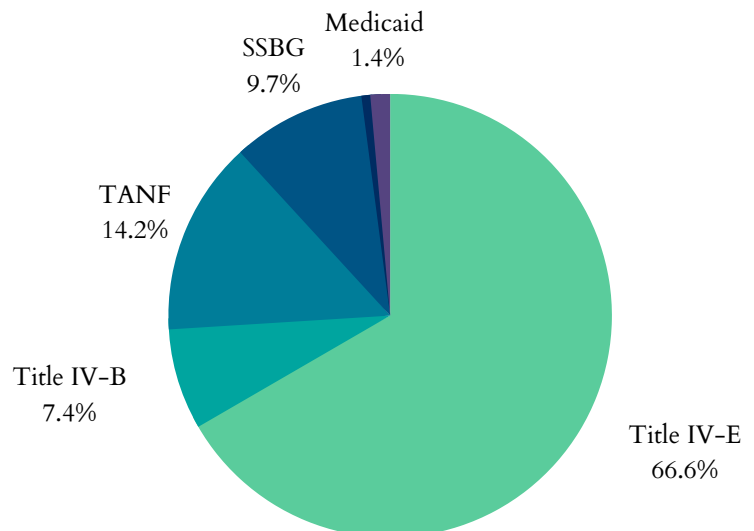
Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Arkansas spent \$162,419,450.16 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.
- \$105,184,431.16 were allocated from the federal government and \$55,861,186.00 came from state and local funds.

The significant funding sectors of the \$105,184,431.16 in federal funding received in Arkansas in 2018:

- \$7,685,062.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- \$25,307,304.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Arkansas' sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was \$12,379,388.00

Federal Funding Sources, 2018



Arkansas' Children

ARKANSAS STATE FACT SHEET

<https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Arkansas-Children.pdf>



NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS

<https://www.cwla.org/our-work/advocacy/national-and-state-fact-sheets/>



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