

Colorado's Children

Child Maltreatment

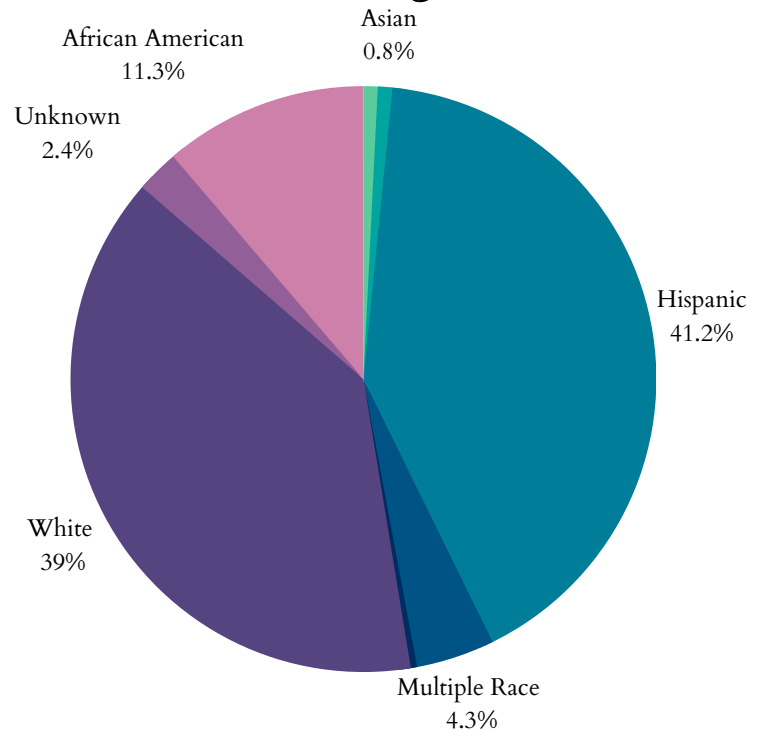
In 2021, Colorado had 99,813 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,362 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 11,147 child victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado in 2021, at a rate of 9.0 children per 1,000. This translates to a 3.7% decrease since 2017.

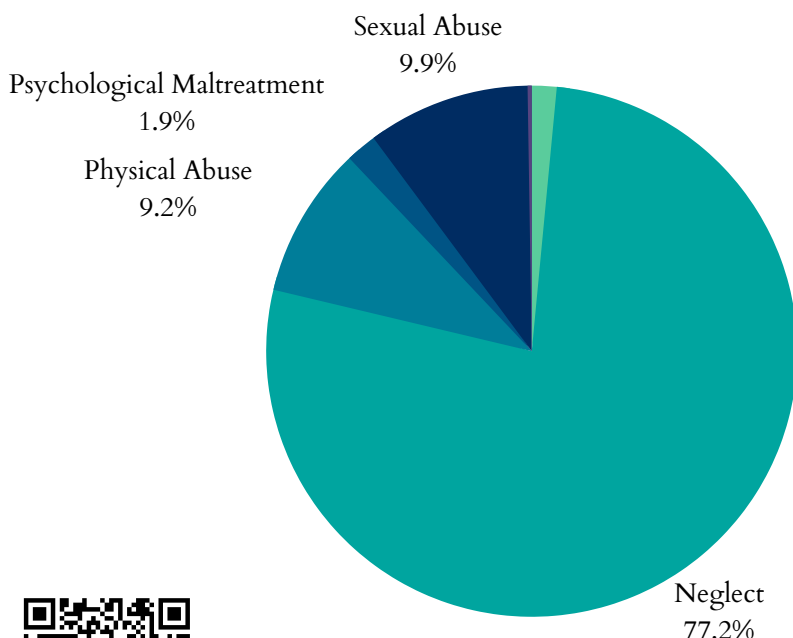
Of the 11,147 children, 7,699 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,594 of the 11,147 cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- 73% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 27% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 53% of Colorado's child victims in 2020 were female while 47% were male.

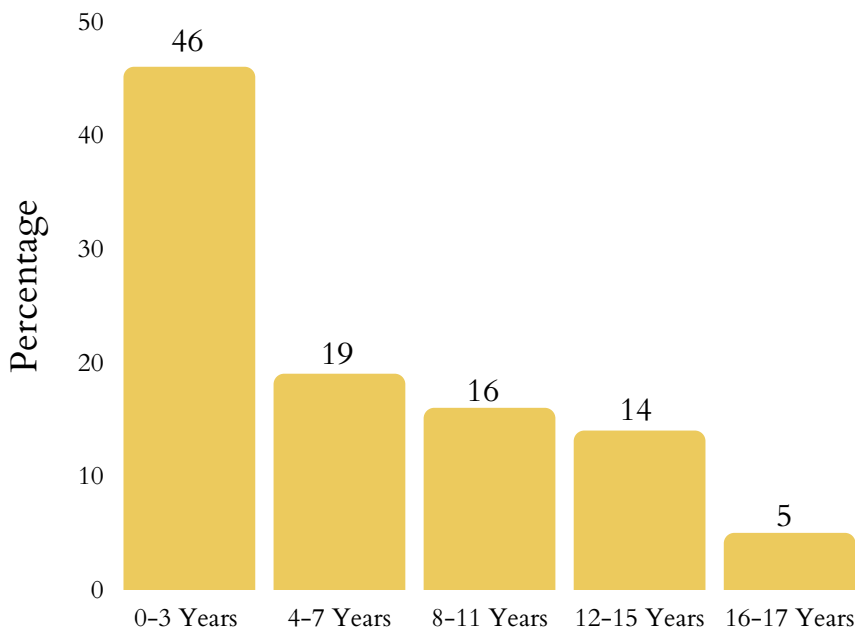
Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Colorado reported 37 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Colorado reported 8 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



- Child fatalities have decreased from 24 in 2020 to 31 in 2021.
- Colorado did not report a number for child victims of sex trafficking.
- 2,153 victims received post-response services while 785 non-victims received post-response services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

- Colorado has a plan approved by the administration.
- [Colorado's Family First Plan](#)

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 8,147 total children were served by the foster care system in Colorado in FY 2021.
- 4,248 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 3,542 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 3,899 exited during the same year.
- 790 of Colorado's children were adopted while 872 were waiting to be adopted.

14.3%

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

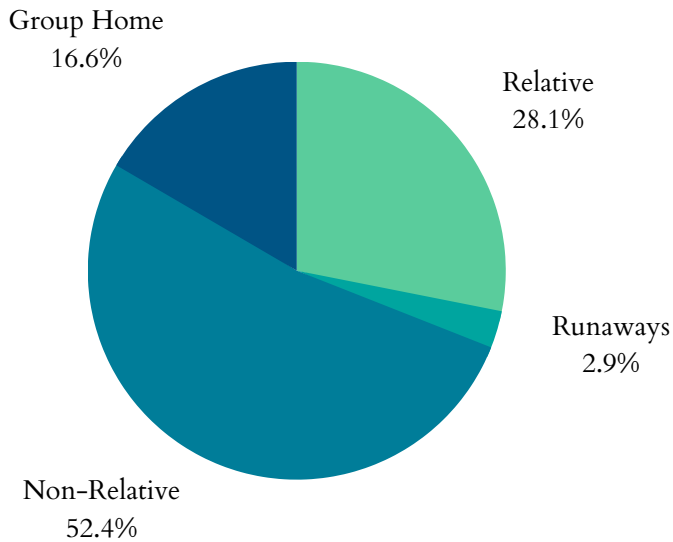
There was a 11.6% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 5.0% from 2020.

191 children in Colorado aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 223 in 2019 and represents a 14.3% decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 17.5 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Colorado for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 33.6 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.7 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 5.3 years old.

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 2,320 children in foster care within Colorado were living with non-relatives while 1,244 stayed with a relative.

734 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 127 children were classified as runaways.

3% of households in Colorado 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 8.5 months.

Child Poverty

Colorado had 296,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 24% of all children.

30% of Colorado's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

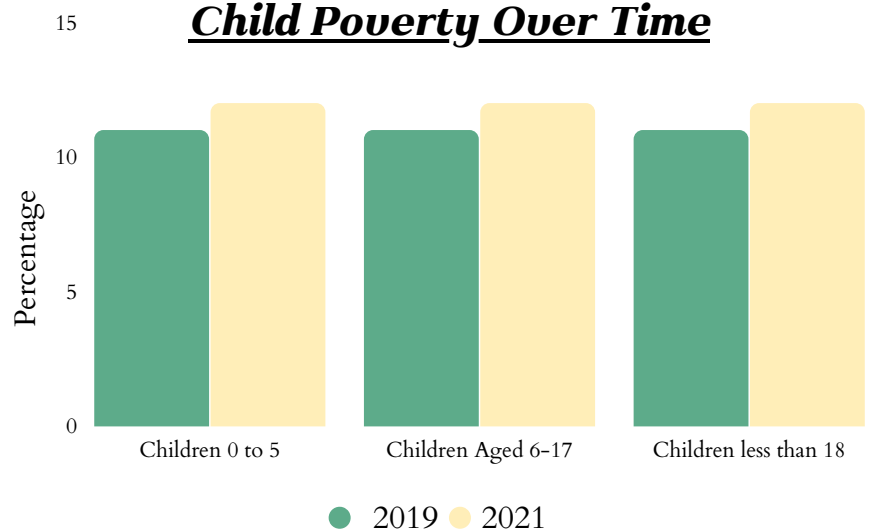
The average number of TANF recipients rose from 28,059 in 2021 to 28,475 in 2022. This represents a 1.5% increase.

The state spent \$26,515,012 on WIC in 2022, serving 78,129 people. This represents a 0.7% decrease in total participants and a 1.0% increase in spending.

474,420 people in Colorado were food insecure in 2020, including 141,570 children who struggled with hunger.

42.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Colorado in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time



Colorado's Children

Health

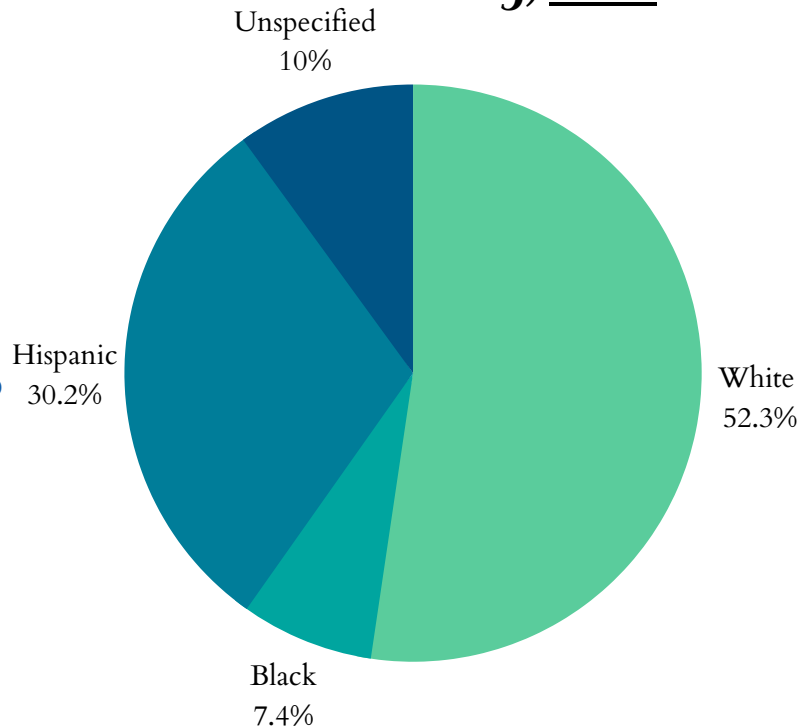
Colorado had 5,666 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.4% of infants born in Colorado in 2020.

Colorado had 5,670 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.4% of all White babies were born prematurely while 11.2% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 9.14%.

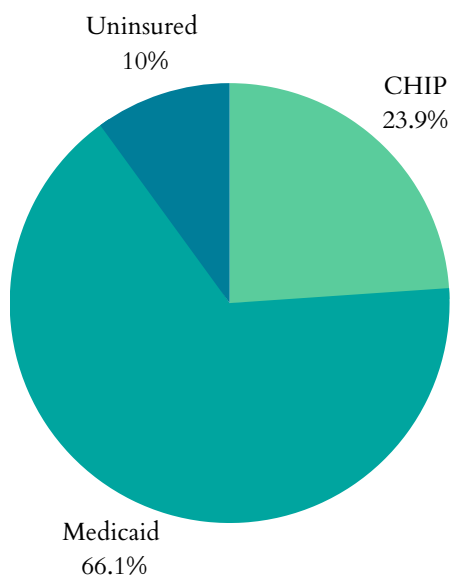
There were 2,223 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Colorado in 2020, representing a rate of 12 in every 1,000 teen girls.

294 infants under 1 died in Colorado in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020



Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019



61,000 of Colorado's children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents a 16.4% decrease from 2019.

Colorado is a Medicaid expansion state as of January 2014.

468,318 children in Colorado were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 2.8% decrease from 2019.

164,505 children in Colorado were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 5.6% decrease from 2019.

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Juvenile Justice

- There were 16,885 total arrests for children under 18 in Colorado in 2019.
- 1,565 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 3,062 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 1,920 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 753 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado in 2019. This is a decrease from 993 kids in 2017, representing a 24.2% decline.

24.2%

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

Teens & Youth

- 20,000 (7%) of Colorado's youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were 18 reports of children in Colorado aged 10-14 committing suicide and 197 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 82 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Colorado in 2020.

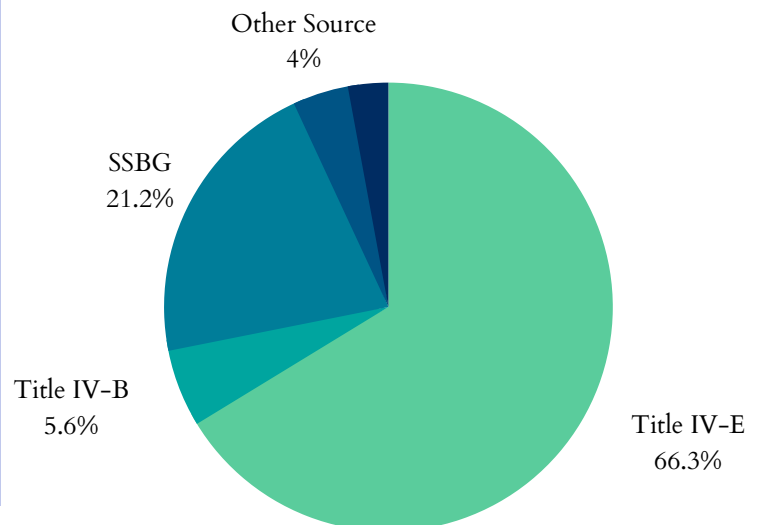
Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Colorado spent \$390,495,868.00 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.
- \$150,996,558.00 were allocated from the federal government and \$233,158,552.00 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources, 2018

The significant funding sectors of the \$150,996,558.00 in federal funding received in Colorado in 2018:

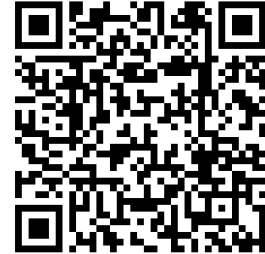
- \$29,397,951.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- \$16,958,469.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Colorado's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was \$28,147,528.00



Colorado's Children

COLORADO STATE FACT SHEET

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



NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS

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



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