

Georgia's Children

Child Maltreatment

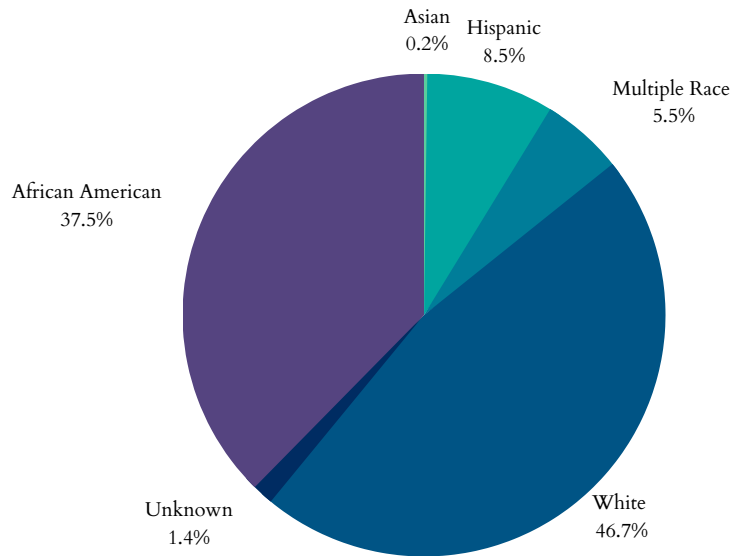
In 2021, Georgia had 114,260 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 54,463 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 9,643 child victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia in 2021, at a rate of 3.8 children per 1,000. This translates to a 6.6% decrease since 2017.

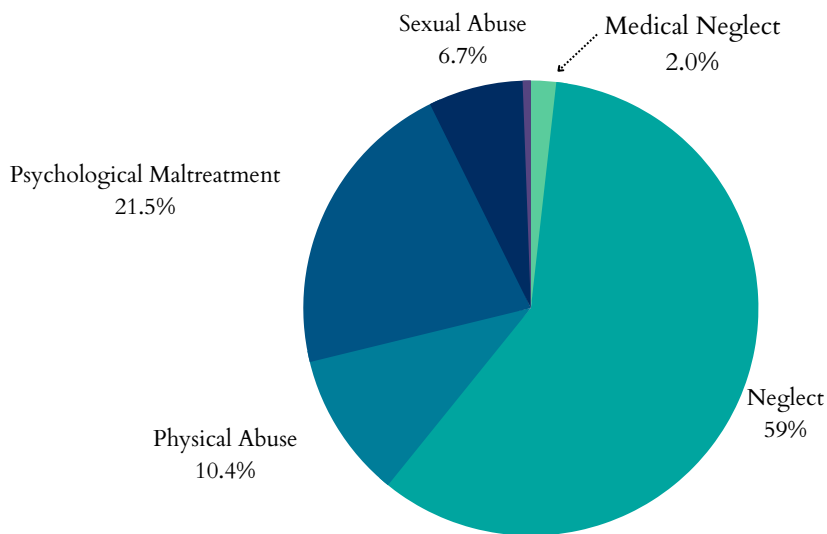
Of the 9,643 children, 8,138 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,744 of the 9,643 cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- 78% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 22% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 52% of Georgia's child victims in 2020 were female while 48% were male.

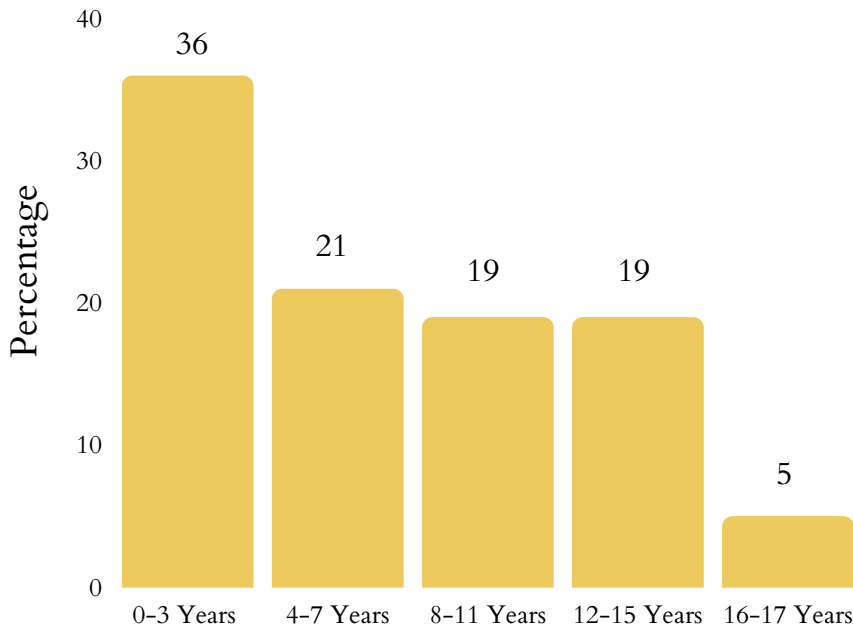
Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Georgia reported 3,942 infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Georgia reported 2,725 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



- Child fatalities have increased from 85 in 2020 to 92 in 2021.
- Georgia reported 62 child victims of sex trafficking.
- 7,449 victims received post-response services while 70,246 non-victims received post-response services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

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

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 16,043 total children were served by the foster care system in Georgia in FY 2021.
- 10,504 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 4,718 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 5,539 exited during the same year.
- 1,395 of Georgia's children were adopted while 2,907 were waiting to be adopted.

0.5%

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

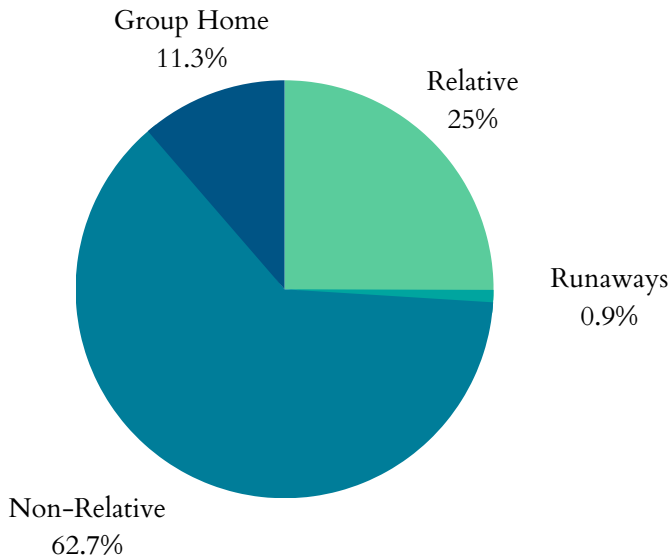
There was a 7.6% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 12.0% from 2020.

653 children in Georgia aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 656 in 2019 and represents a 0.5% decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 23.4 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Georgia for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 39.5 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 8.1 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 6.2 years old.

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?, 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 6,860 children in foster care within Georgia were living with non-relatives while 2,742 stayed with a relative.

1,242 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 104 children were classified as runaways.

5% of households in Georgia 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 14.3 months.

Child Poverty

Georgia had 736,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 29% of all children.

29% of Georgia's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

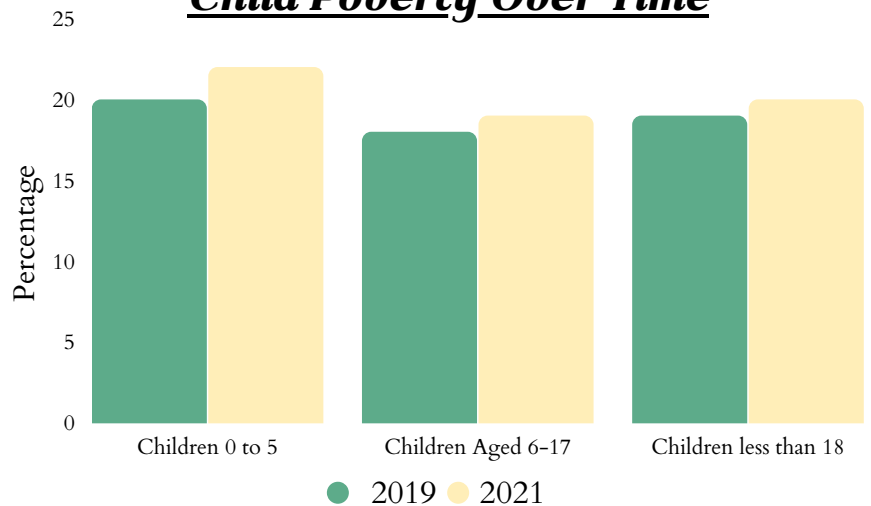
The average number of TANF recipients fell from 14,633 in 2021 to 12,384 in 2022. This represents a 15.4% decrease.

The state spent \$70,083,102 on WIC in 2022, serving 191,692 people. This represents a 3.9% increase in total participants and a 12.9% increase in spending.

1,141,880 people in Georgia were food insecure in 2020, including 360,210 children who struggled with hunger.

46.8% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Georgia in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time



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Health

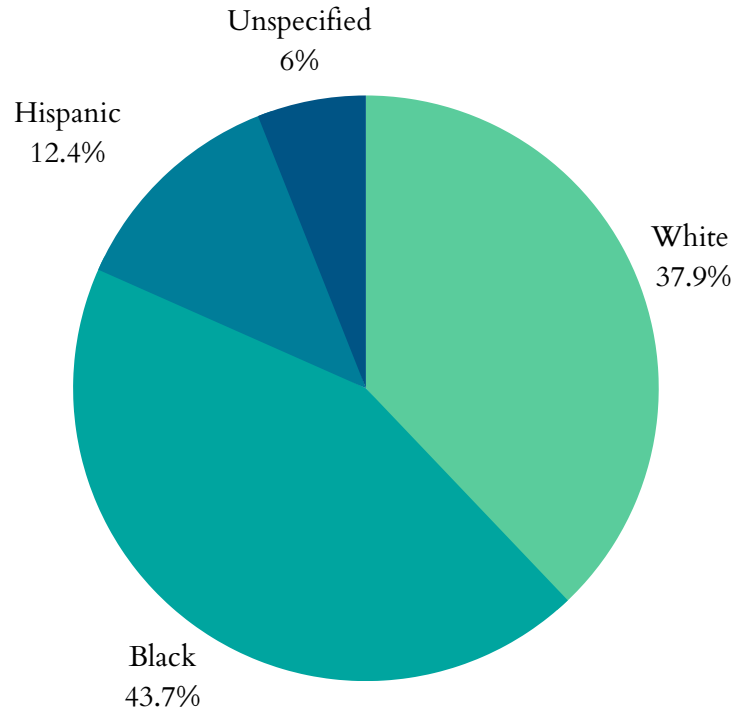
Georgia had 12,072 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 9.9% of infants born in Georgia in 2020.

Georgia had 13,980 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 10.0% of all White babies were born prematurely while 13.9% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 11.42%.

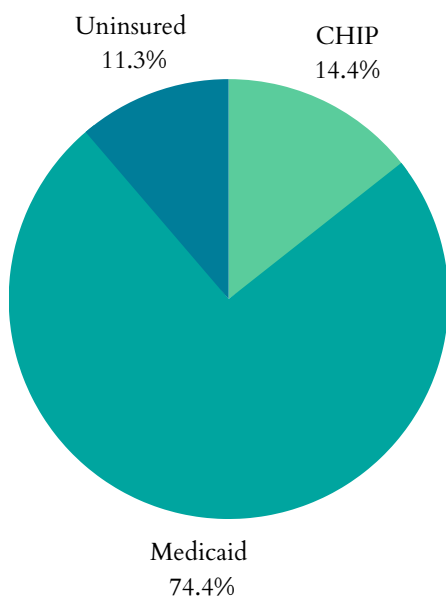
There were 6,572 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Georgia in 2020, representing a rate of 18 in every 1,000 teen girls.

765 infants under 1 died in Georgia in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020



Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2019



176,000 of Georgia's children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents a 10.7% decrease from 2019.

Georgia is not a Medicaid expansion state.

1,337,100 children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 2.9% increase from 2019.

251,620 children in Georgia were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 0.2% increase from 2019.

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Juvenile Justice

- There were 5,176 total arrests for children under 18 in Georgia in 2019.
- 481 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 1,032 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 599 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 1,119 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia in 2019. This is a increase from 1,068 kids in 2017, representing a 4.8% incline.

4.8%

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

Teens & Youth

- 51,000 (8%) of Georgia's youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, there were 24 reports of children in Georgia aged 10-14 committing suicide and 228 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 209 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2020.

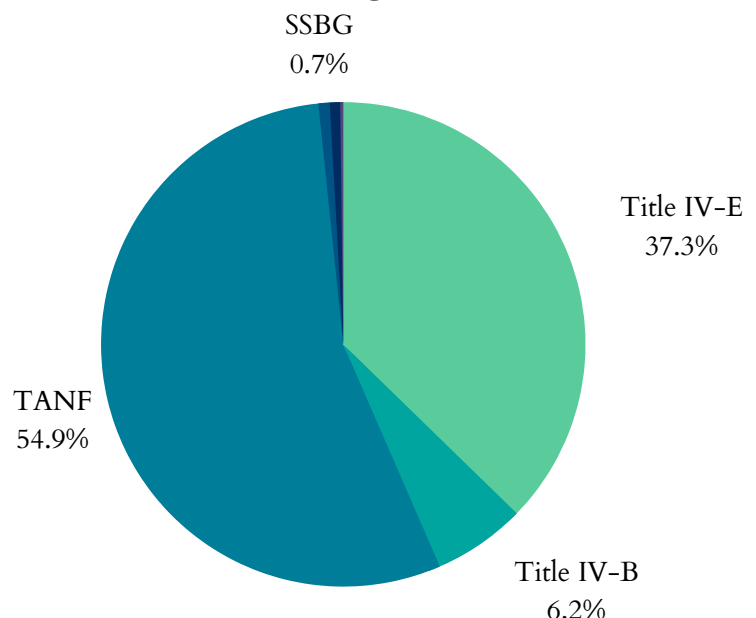
Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Georgia spent \$879,830,040 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.
- \$389,714,488 were allocated from the federal government and \$490,115,552 came from state and local funds.

The significant funding sectors of the \$389,714,488.00 in federal funding received in Georgia in 2018:

- \$91,152,762.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- \$47,249,666.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Georgia's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was \$56,945,862.00

Federal Funding Sources, 2018



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GEORGIA STATE FACT SHEET

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



NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS

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



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