

Mississippi's Children

Child Maltreatment

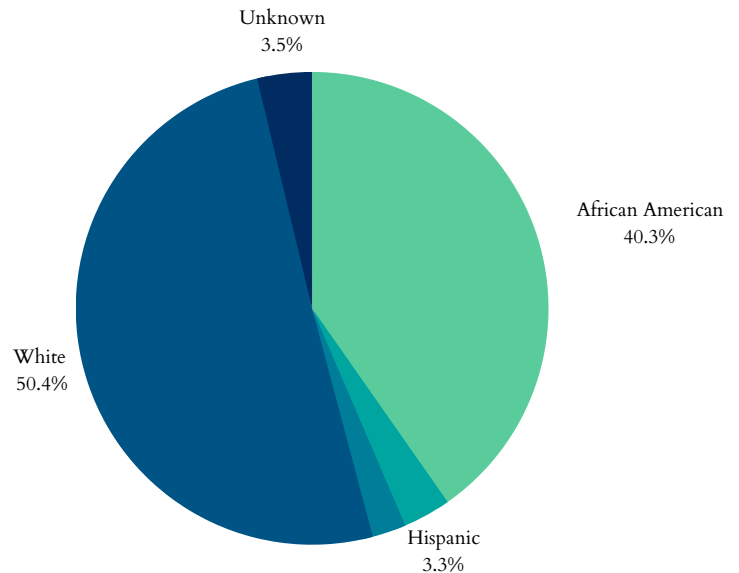
In 2021, Mississippi had 34,405 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,155 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 8,526 child victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi in 2021, at a rate of 12.3 children per 1,000. This translates to a 18.2% decrease since 2017.

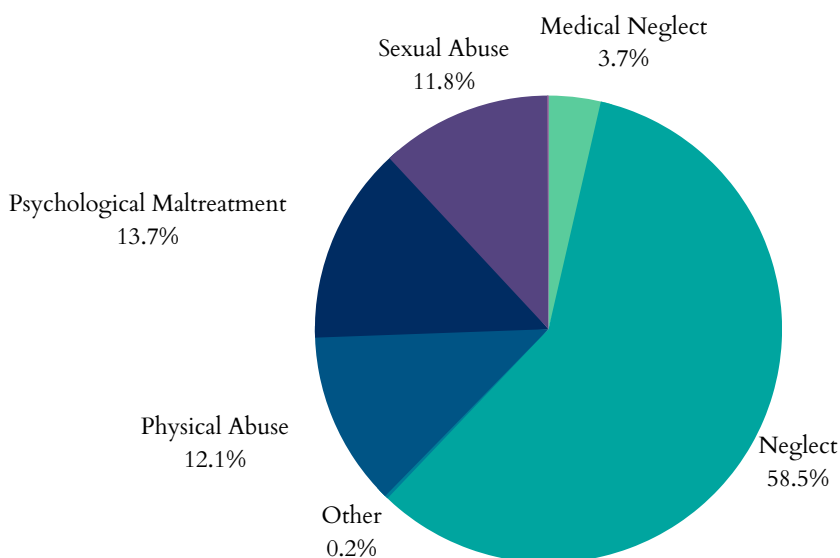
Of the 8,526 children, 7,526 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 1,260 of the 8,526 cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2021



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021



- 71% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- 29% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 53% of Mississippi's child victims in 2020 were female while 46% were male.

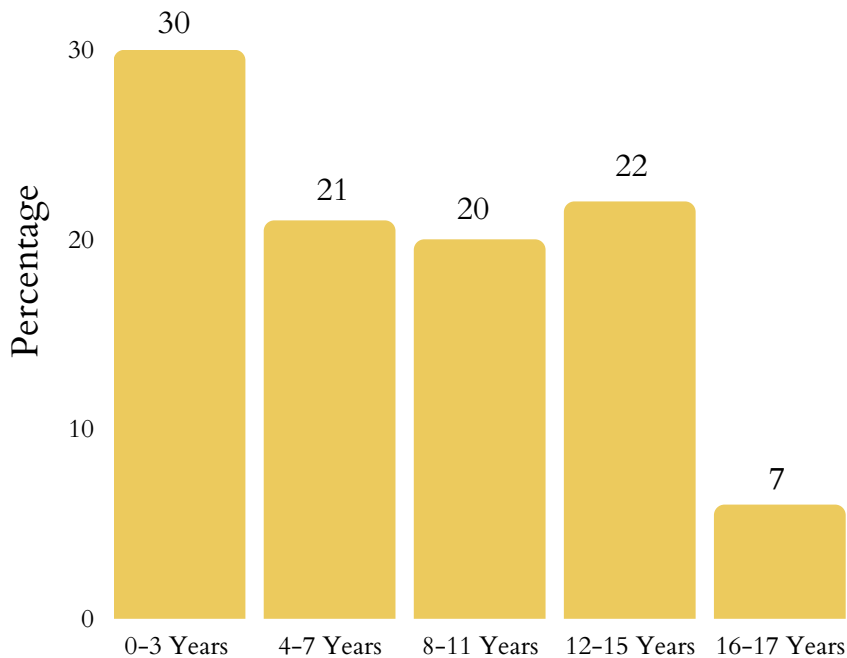
Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, Mississippi did not report on infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Mississippi did not report screened-in infants with plans of safe care.



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020



- Mississippi reported 49 child fatalities in 2021, which is an increase from 38 in 2020.
- Mississippi reported 10 total child victims of sex trafficking
- 3,866 victims received postresponse services while 8,624 non-victims received postresponse services as well.

FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION

- Mississippi does not have a plan approved by the administration.

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 5,570 total children were served by the foster care system in Mississippi in FY 2021.
- 3,540 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 2,029 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 2,040 exited during the same year.
- 566 of Mississippi's children were adopted while 1,139 were waiting to be adopted.

There was a 1.5% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also decreased by 5.19% from 2020.

61 children in Mississippi aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This number represents a 15.2% decrease since 2019.

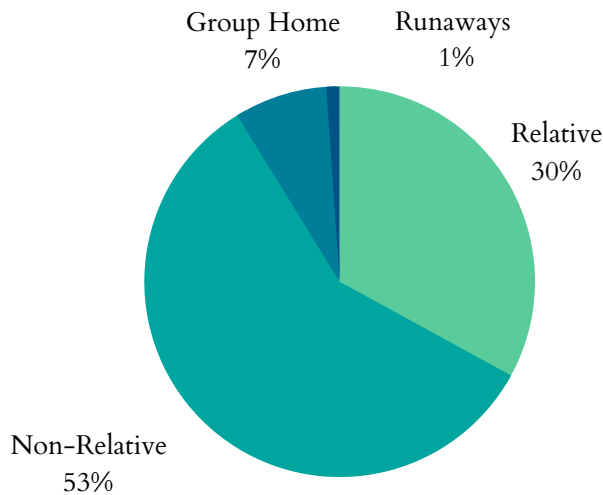
- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 23.2 months in care.
- The average length of stay in Mississippi for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 35.3 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.5 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 7.2 years old.

15.2%

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

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2020



Data from 2020 shows that 1,894 children in foster care within Mississippi were living with non-relatives while 1,077 stayed with a relative.

265 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 19 children were classified as runaways.

6% of households in Mississippi 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 13.7 months.

Child Poverty

Mississippi had 241,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 35% of all children.

28% of Mississippi's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

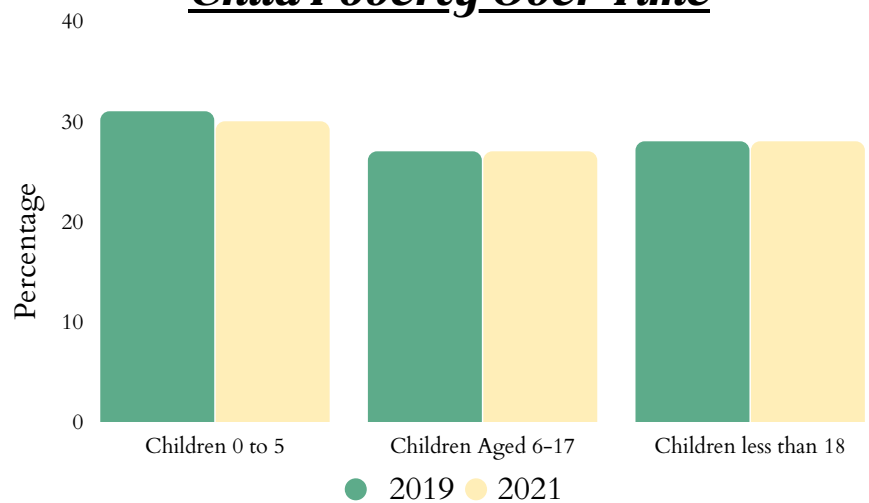
The average number of TANF recipients fell from 2,880 in 2021 to 2,511 in 2022. This represents a 12.8% decrease.

Mississippi spent \$17,203,249 on WIC in 2022, serving 67,166 people. This represents a 7.77% decrease in total participants and a 0.95% decrease in spending.

483,700 people in Mississippi were food insecure in 2020, including 144,320 children who struggled with hunger.

47.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Mississippi in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time



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Health

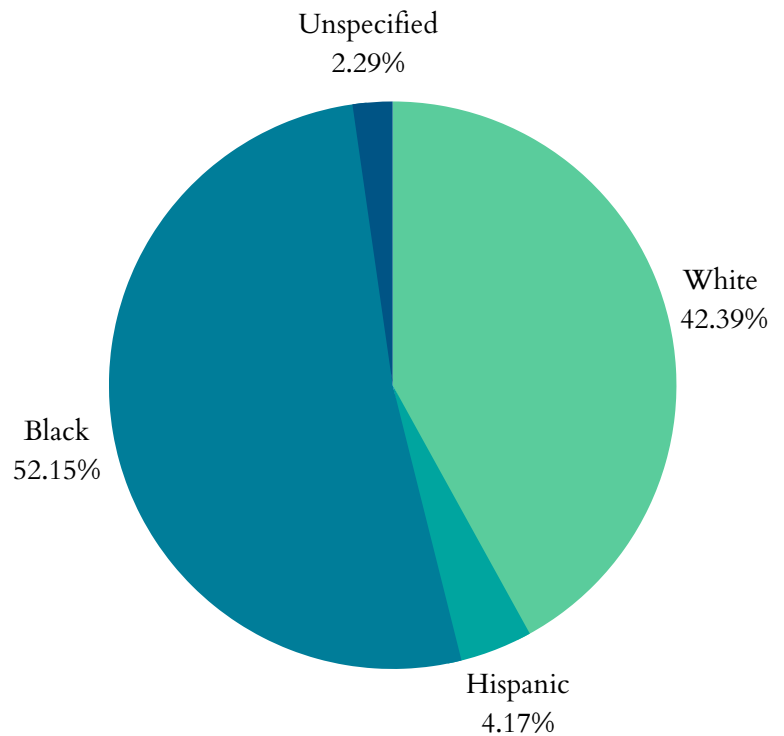
Mississippi had 4,192 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 11.8% of infants born in Mississippi in 2020.

Mississippi had 5,032 of preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 12.09% of all White babies were born prematurely while 16.99% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 14.19%.

There were 2,711 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Mississippi in 2020, representing a rate of 28 in every 1,000 teen girls.

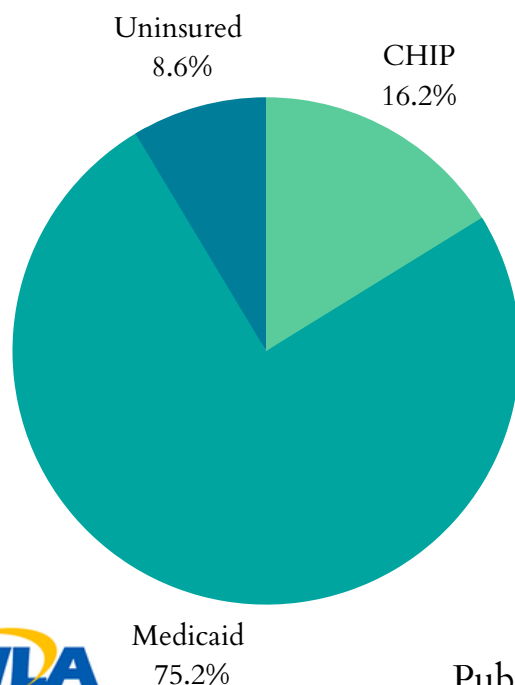
293 infants under 1 died in Mississippi in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 8.3 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2020



Public Health Insurance

Coverage for Children, 2019



46,000 of Mississippi's children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents no change from 2019.

Mississippi is not a Medicaid expansion state.

395,469 children in Mississippi were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.5% decrease from 2019.

84,459 children in Mississippi were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 2.35% decrease from 2019.

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Juvenile Justice

- There were 2,719 total arrests for children under 18 in 2019.
- 362 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 596 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 214 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 198 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi in 2019. This is a decrease from 273 kids in 2017, representing a 27.5% decline.

27.5%

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

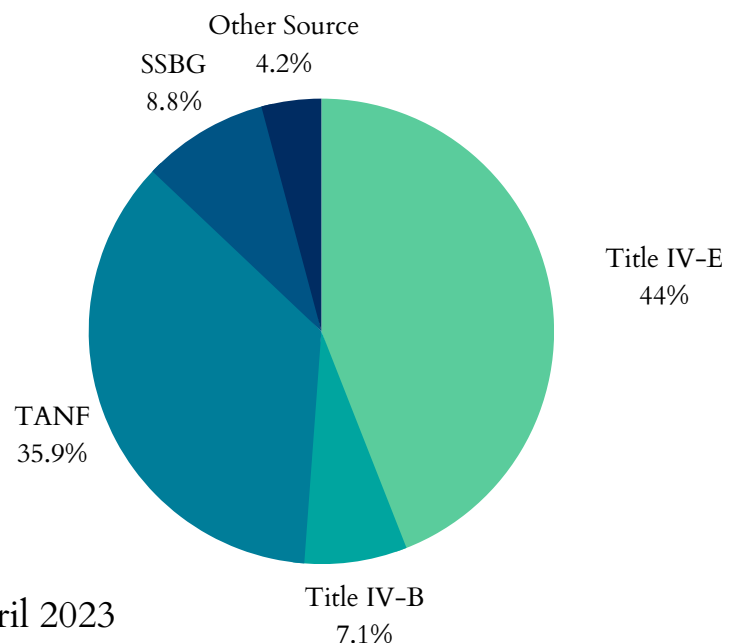
Teens & Youth

- 12,000 (7%) of Mississippi's youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2021.
- In 2020, Mississippi did not report the number of children in aged 10-14 committing suicide and 49 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15-24.
- 86 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi in 2020.

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Mississippi spent \$196,471,044 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.
- \$98,501,721 were allocated from the federal government and \$97,969,323 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources, 2018



The significant funding sectors of the \$98,501,721 in federal funding received in Mississippi in 2018:

- \$28,554,391.00 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- \$13,118,517.00 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Mississippi's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was \$11,905,002.

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MISSISSIPPI STATE FACT SHEET

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



NATIONAL AND STATE FACT SHEETS

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



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