In 2021, North Dakota had 2,715 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,715 were screened in for response by CPS.

There were 1,349 child victims of abuse or neglect in North Dakota in 2021, at a rate of 7.3 children per 1,000. This translates to a 31.9% decrease since 2017.

Of the 1,349 children, 958 were first-time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 212 of the 1,349 cases.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2021

- **81%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2020 were parents of the child.
- **19%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- **50%** of North Dakota’s child victims in 2020 were female while **50%** were male.

Plans for Safe Care

- In 2021, North Dakota did not report infants screened with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- North Dakota did not report a number of plans of safe care for screened-in infants.
North Dakota's Children

**Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2020**

- Child fatalities have decreased from 5 in 2020 to 4 in 2021.
- North Dakota did not report child victims of sex trafficking.
- 951 victims received post-response services while 427 non-victims received post-response services as well.

**FAMILY FIRST IMPLEMENTATION**
- North Dakota's Family First plan was approved by the administration in 2020.

**Foster Care and Adoptions**

- 2,461 total children were served by the foster care system in North Dakota in FY 2021.
- 1,510 were in care on the day of September 30th, 2021.
- 950 children entered care during the 2021 FY while 960 exited during the same year.
- 1,317 of North Dakota’s children were adopted while 416 were waiting to be adopted.

There was a 2.96% decrease in the number of children in care between 2020 and 2021. Adoptions from the system also increased by 16.24% from 2020.

24 children in North Dakota aged out and exited foster care in 2020. This is a decrease from 55 in 2019 and represents an 56% decrease.

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average length of 20.4 months in care.
- The average length of stay in North Dakota for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 36.9 months.
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.7 years old.
- The average age of adopted children was 7.1 years old.

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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2020

Data from 2020 shows that 957 children in foster care within North Dakota were living with non-relatives while 397 stayed with a relative.

86 children were staying in group homes or institutions while 5 children were classified as runaways.

2% of households in North Dakota 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 8.8 months.

Child Poverty

North Dakota had 37,000 children in 2021 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 20% of all children.

20% of North Dakota’s children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2021.

The average number of TANF recipients fell from 2,778 in 2021 to 1,738 in 2022. This represents a 37.4% decrease.

North Dakota spent $6,531,393 on WIC in 2022, serving 10,218 people. This represents a 1.4% decrease in total participants and a 7.98% increase in spending.

36,130 people in North Dakota were food insecure in 2020, including 14,490 children who struggled with hunger.

41.7% of households receiving SNAP benefits in North Dakota in 2019 had children.

Child Poverty Over Time

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Health

North Dakota had 693 low birth-weight babies born in 2020, which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 6.9% of infants born in North Dakota in 2020.

North Dakota had a total of 987 preterm births in 2020, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 9.21% of all White babies were born prematurely while 8.65% of Black babies arrived prematurely in 2020. The total premature birth rate was 9.82%.

There were 319 births to mothers aged 15–19 in North Dakota in 2020, representing a rate of 14 in every 1,000 teen girls.

56 infants under 1 died in North Dakota in 2020, representing an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1,000.

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

14,000 of North Dakota’s children had no health insurance in 2021. This represents a 6.67% decrease from 2019.

33,971 children in North Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. There was no change reported from 2019.

6,139 children in North Dakota were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents no change from 2019.

North Dakota is a Medicaid expansion state as of January 2014.
Juvenile Justice

- There were 4,152 total arrests for children under 18 in 2019.
- 740 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 559 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 332 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 78 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota in 2019. This number has decreased from 108 in 2017, representing a 27.7% decrease.

Teens & Youth

- 3,000 (7%) of North Dakota’s youth, ages 16-19, were not in school nor working in 2019.
- In 2020, North Dakota did not report the number of children aged 10–14 committing suicide, however, there were 16 reports of suicide among children and young adults aged 15–24.
- North Dakota did not report children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in 2020.

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- North Dakota spent $72,302,710 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.
- $48,201,807 were allocated from the federal government and $24,100,903 came from state and local funds.

The significant funding sectors of the $48,201,807 in federal funding received in North Dakota in 2018:

- $14,233,563 as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- $7,678,133 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- North Dakota’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 $3,689,223.