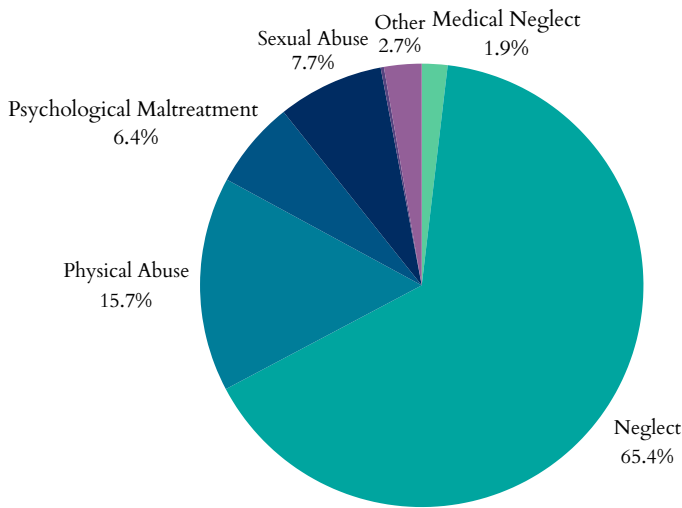


# The Nation's Children

## Child Maltreatment

- In 2024, there were nationally **4,087,496** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **2,058,720** were screened in for response by CPS.
- **532,228** child victims of abuse or neglect, at a rate of 7.2 children per 1,000 (14.1% decrease since 2020).
- Of the 532,228 children, **376,818** were first-time victims.
- Largest age group of victims = **<1 years**, representing **73,087** of the 532,228 cases.

## Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



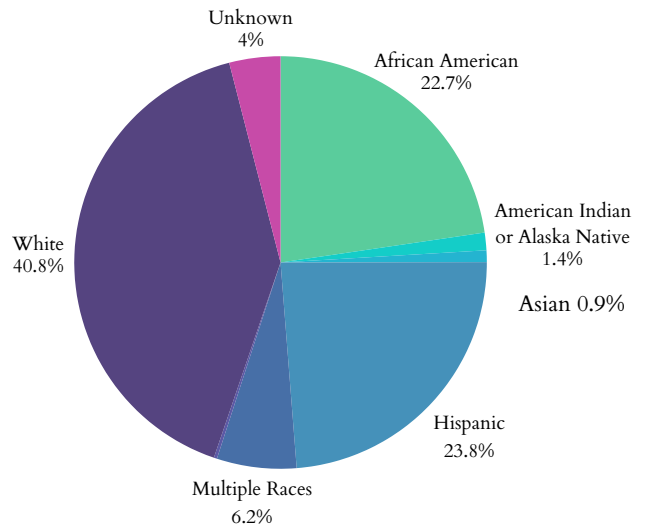
## Workforce

There are around **382,960** children, family, and school social workers nationally with a mean wage of **\$30.25** (compared to the national 2024 minimum wage: **\$7.25**)



Published March 2026

## Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



## Perpetrators of child maltreatment (2024):

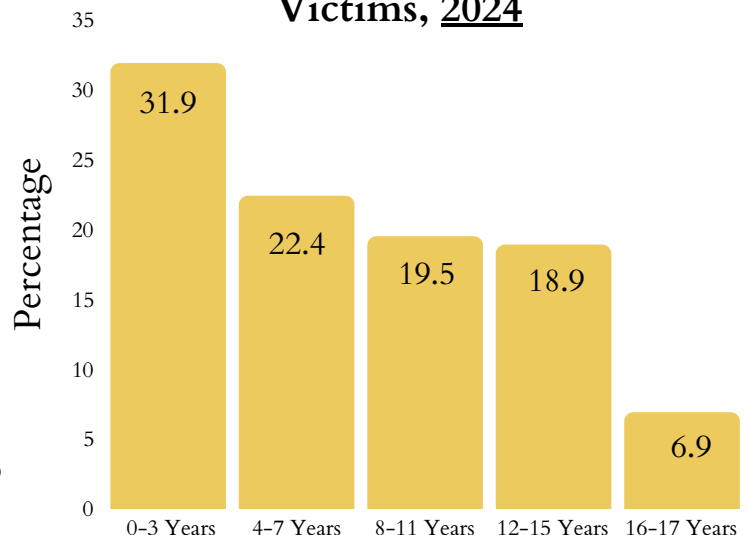
- **76.3%** = parents of the child
- **23.7%** = non-parents or unknown relationship.

## Child victims (2024):

- **51.6%** = female; **48%** = male.

- Child fatalities decreased from **1,979** in 2023 to **1,773** in 2024.
- Nationally, there were **1,532** total child victims of sex trafficking reported.
- Post-response services given to **296,738** victims and **583,698** non-victims.

## Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2024

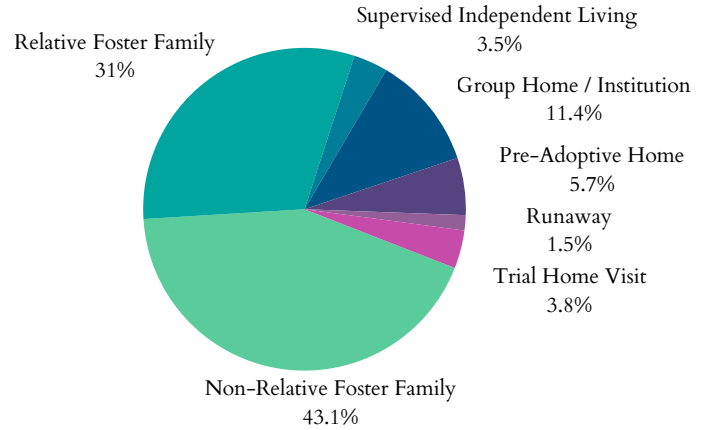


# The Nation's Children

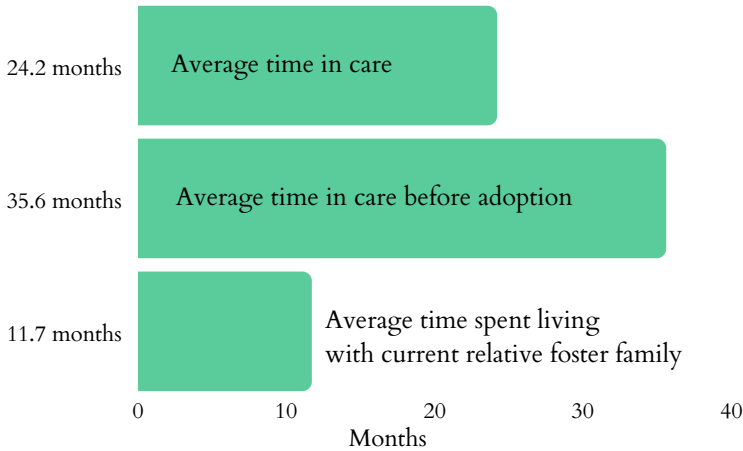
## Foster Care and Adoptions

- **505,713** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2024.
- **328,963** children in care as of 09/30/2024.
- During FY 2024, **170,955** children entered care and **176,745** exited care.
- **46,935** children were adopted; **70,418** had a permanency plan for adoption.
- **3.3%** decrease in the number of children in care and a **6.2%** decrease in the number of children adopted from care from FY 2023-2024.

### Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2023



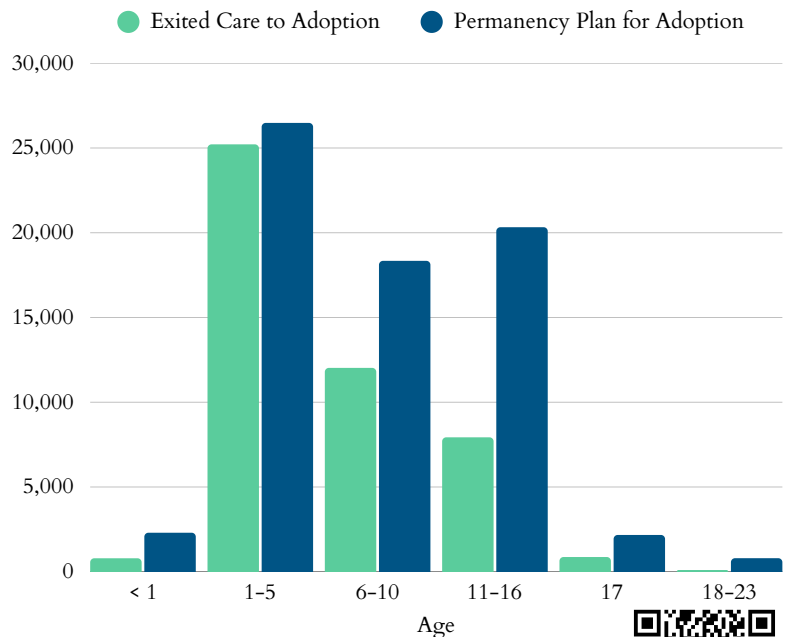
### Duration in Care, 2024



- In 2023, **152,793** children were living with non-relative foster families; **109,782** stayed with a relative.
- **40,390** children were staying in group homes or institutions; **5,411** children were classified as runaways.
- There are **6,750,866** grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18. Of those, **31.4%** are responsible for their grandchildren.

In FY 2024, **15,379** children transitioned from foster care to independence. This is a **2.1%** decrease from **15,702** in FY 2023

### Age Distribution of Adoptions, 2024



## Juvenile Justice

- **456,871** total arrests for youth under 18 in 2023
- A total of **29,314** youth were in a correctional placement in 2023; a **17.8%** increase since 2021
  - **22.6%** of these youth are ≤ 14 years old
    - **42.8%** are Black youth
    - **35.9%** are White youth
  - **85.2%** males and **14.8%** females
- Black youth represent **46%** of all correctional placements; **29.5%** for White youth in 2023

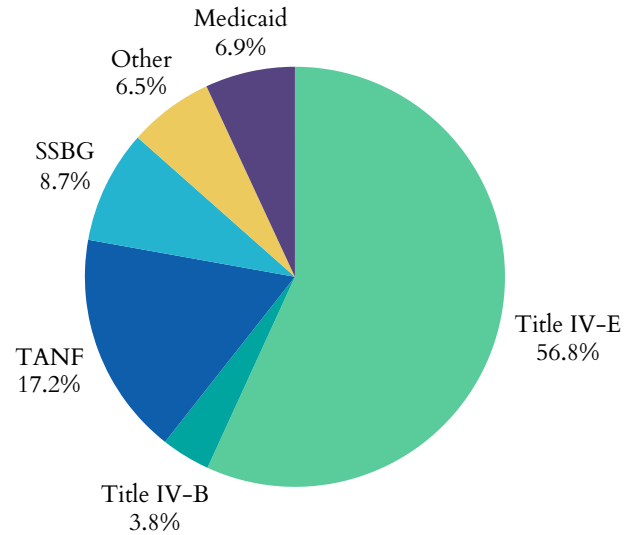


# The Nation's Children

## Funding for Child Welfare Services

- The United States spent **\$34,322,173,899.62** on child welfare services in 2022.
  - Child welfare services = direct and administrative services
- **\$16,750,170,888.97** = from the federal government
- **\$17,344,682,808.51** = from state and local funds.

## Federal Funding Sources, 2022



The significant funding sectors of the **\$16,750,170,888.97** in federal funding given to states in 2022:

- **\$4,746,269,593.84** as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- **\$3,681,738,546.71** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- The United States sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2022 was **\$2,663,376,822**

## Child Care & Early Learning

- There were **22,982,579** children ages 5 and under in the U.S. in 2024
  - **14,813,607** of these children had all available parents in the workforce
- **6,280,772** children ages 5 and under were eligible for CCDBG
  - **839,226** children 5 and under were served by CCDBG
  - **13%** of eligible children were served by CCDBG

- Monthly childcare copayments for a three-person family earning **\$30,000 per year** range from **\$0** in 24 States/Territories to **\$477** in Nevada
  - Median monthly copayment is **\$10**
- Families that do not receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs. The monthly price of center-based infant care ranges from **\$607** in Mississippi to **\$2,039** in Massachusetts

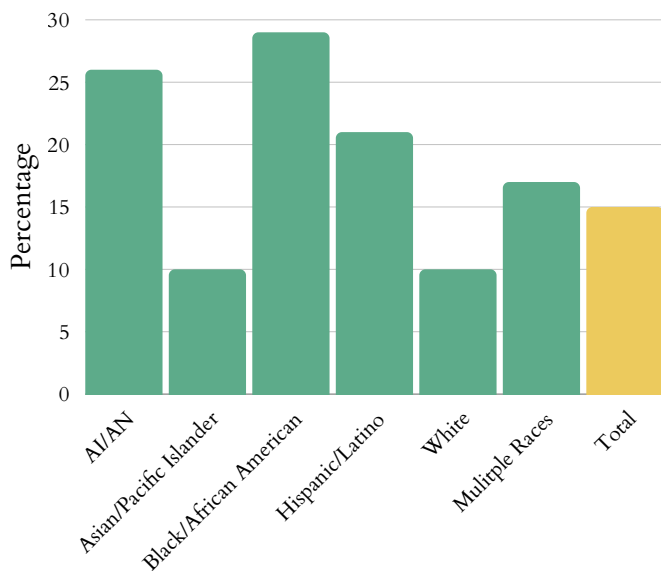


# The Nation's Children

## Child Poverty

- **18,437,000** children lived with parents who lacked secure employment in 2023 (25% of all children).
- Average number of TANF recipients rose from **2,060,968** in 2024 to **2,093,502** in 2025 (1.6% increase).

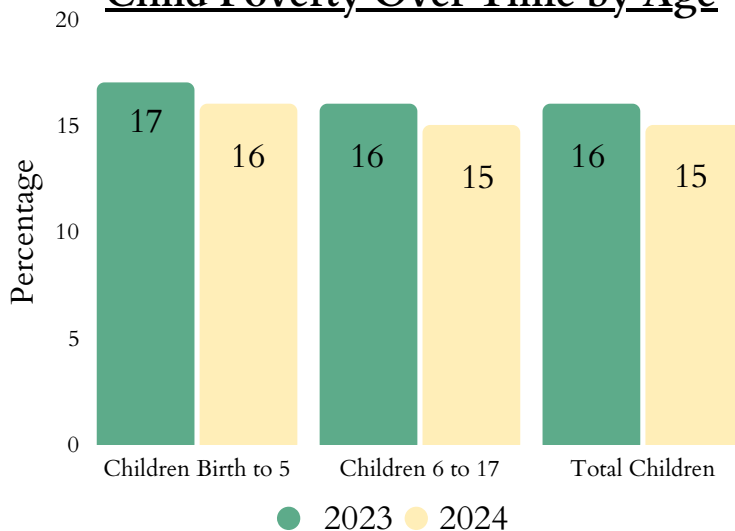
### Child Poverty by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



## Housing

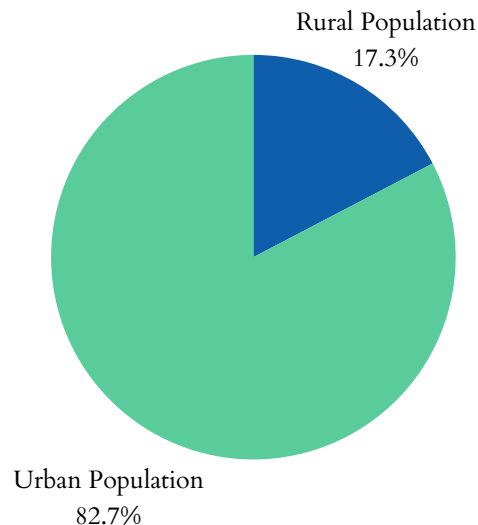
- **446,696** children, from birth to three-years-old, experienced homelessness in 2023 (3.04%).
- **28.9%** of households receiving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit report having at least one member under 18 in 2023.
- **30%** of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2023.
- **1,503,859** Americans living in public housing in 2025.

### Child Poverty Over Time by Age



- The U.S. spent **\$5,338,836,934** on WIC in 2025, serving **6,866,095** people: a 2.7% increase in total participants and 8.7% increase in spending since 2024.
- **48,000,000** people were food insecure in 2023, including **14,000,000** children.
- **42,127,000** people were served by SNAP on average each month in 2025.

### Total Urban vs. Rural Population of the United States, 2020

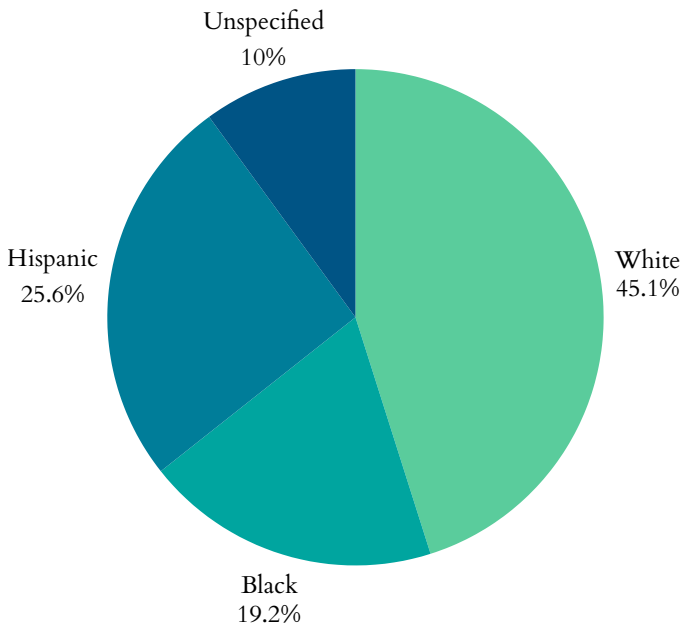


# The Nation's Children

## Health

- **308,263** low birth-weight babies (<5.5lbs) born in 2023 (8.6% of births).
- **373,902** preterm births (<37wks) in 2023 (10.41% of births).
  - 9.44% of all White babies
  - 14.65% of all Black babies
- **140,977** births to mothers aged 15-19 in 2023 — a rate of 13 in every 1,000 teen girls.
- **20,145** infants <1yr died in 2023 — a rate of 6 in every 1,000 infants.

### Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2023



## Medicaid Expansion

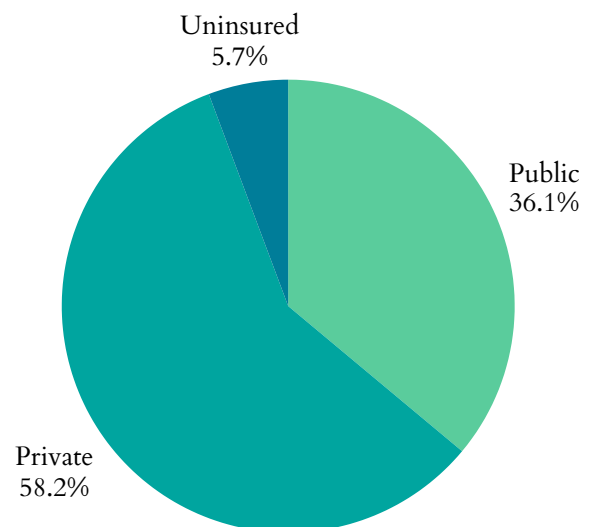
Nationally, **Medicaid expansion** has been adopted and implemented in 41 states.

## Maternal Mortality

- From 2018 to 2022, **4,295** American women died while pregnant, or within 42 days post pregnancy from any cause relating to or aggravated by said pregnancy, excluding accidents and incidents
- Nationally, there were **23** maternal deaths per every 100,000 live births

- **4,648,000** children had no health insurance in 2024 (11.9% increase from 2023).
- **29,010,000** children were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024 (3.4% decrease from 2023).
- **7,628,401** children in the U.S. were in the Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in FY 2021 (6.33% decrease from 2020).

### Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2024

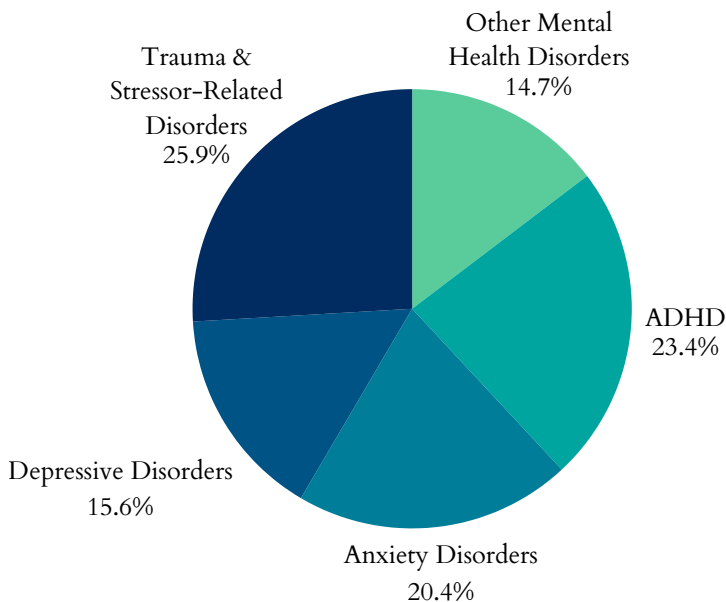


# The Nation's Children

## Zero to Three

- **61.1%** of babies live above low-income
- **20.3%** of babies live at low income
- **18.6%** of babies live in poverty
- **9.6%** of babies live in deep poverty
- **75.8%** of new parents have at least one parent working full time

### Top 5 Mental Health Diagnoses Among Children, 2023



### Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In 2024, nationally, there were **30,191** reported infants screened-in with prenatal substance exposure.
- Nationally, **21,092** plans of safe care were reported for screened-in infants.

### Family First Plan

- **47 states** have plans approved as of 2026
- In FY 2023, **34 states** had approved plans, serving **18,324** children and pulling down **\$172,494,603**
  - **\$70,359,199** in direct costs
  - **\$102,135,404** in training/admin costs

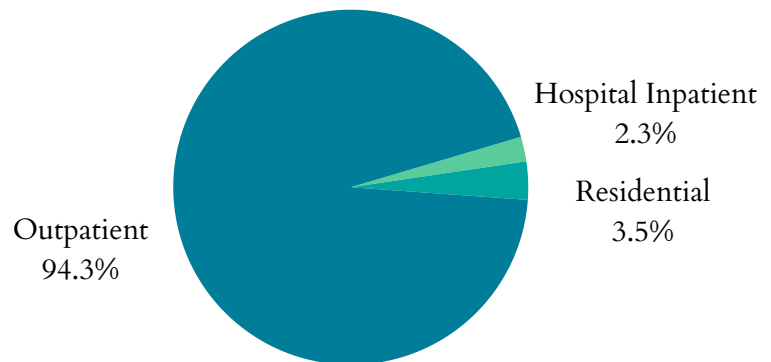
## Teens & Youth

- **1,218,000** youth (16-19yrs) were not in school nor working in 2024 (7%)
- **3,483** children <19yrs were killed by a firearm in the U.S. in 2023.

## Mental Health

- **1,888,259** children received mental health treatment nationally in 2023
- In 2021-2023, there were **10.2** deaths from suicide per 100,000 adolescents aged 15-19 nationally.

### Treatment Type for Youth with Substance Use Disorder, 2024



### Substance Use

- From 2015 to 2019, **2,076,143** children in the United States (1.9% of children) lived with parents having a substance use disorder.
- On March 29, 2024, **96,691** clients 18 and under were in treatment for SUD

