

## 2019 CHILD WELFARE BY THE NUMBERS

Child abuse definitions: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/child-abuse>

### Assessment data and findings:

- 33,004 assessments for child abuse or neglect in calendar 2019
  - 6,543 (20%) family assessments were conducted
    - Family assessments involved 8,560 children
  - 26,461 (80%) child abuse assessments were conducted
    - 17,947 (68%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “not confirmed”
      - Not confirmed child abuse assessments involved 18,113 children
    - 6,891 (26%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “founded” abuse
      - Founded child abuse assessments involved 9,532 children
    - 1,623 (6%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “confirmed” abuse
      - Confirmed child abuse assessments involved 1,936 children
      - “Confirmed” abuse means that the abuse was minor and isolated and not likely to re-occur; and the perpetrator is not placed on the child abuse registry
- Of the total number of abused or neglected children, 5,323 (46%) were 5 years of age or younger, 3,055 (27%) were between 6-10 years, and the remaining 3,085 (27%) were older than 11 years
- Of all substantiated child abuse or neglect:
  - 54% was neglect (denial of critical care)
  - 27% was dangerous substance
  - 7% was physical abuse
  - 7% was presence of illegal drugs in a child’s body
  - 4% was sexual abuse
  - The categories of allows access by a registered sex offender, allows access to obscene materials, mental injury, child sex trafficking, prostitution of a child, and bestiality in the presence of a minor each made up less than 1% of the total substantiated child abuse or neglect

Allegations of abuse and neglect are evaluated by a central intake unit in Des Moines. The intake is accepted if the allegation would be abuse if proven true. Accepted intakes are assessed in person by county-based DHS child protection workers. Most allegations are not confirmed, as indicated in the data above and as aligned with National data. When abuse is founded, a separate group of DHS case managers supervise ongoing services for children and their families. Those services are performed by non-governmental social service organizations under performance-based contracts.

### Average Caseloads:

- 199 DHS child protective workers were assigned an average of 15 cases a month, including cases alleging adult abuse.
- 310 DHS case managers had an average child welfare caseload of 33. In addition to supervising child welfare services, workers attempt to visit every child and their parent every month.

### Strategies and Results of Iowa’s Child Welfare System

- Use consistent best-practice assessment of risk and safety.
- Pursue permanency and family connections for at-risk children
- Reduce racial disparities. Gap is narrowing for both African American and Native American families.
- Engage families in plan for improvement, especially via family team decision-making meetings and parent partners.
- Provide performance-based contracts aligned with safety and permanency outcomes for families.
- Provide free, voluntary, non-DHS services through Community Care for families with low re-abuse risk. Results for CY 2019 include:
  - 98.3% of families referred to Community Care did not have a child adjudicated CINA with DHS providing supervisor or placement within six months of the date of referral to Community Care.
  - 89.4% of families referred to Community Care did not have a confirmed or founded report of child abuse or neglect within 12 months after the date of referral to Community Care.
- Focus on best-practice results (lowering rates of re-abuse, children have permanency and stability, etc.) Results for CY 2019 include:
  - Safety Plan Services
    - 91.2% of children were not removed from their homes during provision of Safety Plan Services.

- 96.9% of children did not suffer maltreatment during provision of Safety Plan Services.
- Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services
  - 76.33% of children were safe from abuse during provision of FSRP Services and for 12 months following end date of service delivery.
  - 70.87% of children were safely maintained in their own homes during provision of FSRP Services and for six consecutive months following end date of service delivery.

The Cost of Child welfare: FY19 Actual Expenditure

<b>Major Services</b>	<b>State dollars*</b>	<b>Other dollars*</b>	<b>Total*</b>	<b>Average Monthly Number Served - FY19</b>	
Family centered services	- \$ 0.2	\$39.4	\$39.6	5,464	families served (at least one child per family)
Family foster care	- \$12.2	\$ 7.4	\$19.6	1,946	children in licensed foster care
Group care	- \$17.8	\$ 1.9	\$19.7	479	children in highly structured group settings
Adoption subsidies	- \$38.6	\$ 37.1	\$75.7	9,864	(subsidies paid until adopted child reaches 18)
Aged-out program (PAL)	- \$ 3.6	\$ 0.0	\$ 3.6	237	aged-out youth receiving stipends, counseling
Shelter care	- \$ 5.1	\$ 0.9	\$ 6	163	children served in average month
DHS social workers	- \$24	\$37.7	\$61.7		*millions