

2020 CHILD WELFARE BY THE NUMBERS

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

Assessment data and findings:

- 30,151 assessments for child abuse or neglect in calendar 2020
 - 6,450 (21%) family assessments were conducted
 - Family assessments involved 8,478 children
 - 23,701 (79%) child abuse assessments were conducted
 - 15,766 (67%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “not confirmed”
 - Not confirmed child abuse assessments involved 15,814 children
 - 1,537 (6%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “confirmed” abuse
 - Confirmed child abuse assessments involved 1,947 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
 - 6,398 (27%) of child abuse assessments resulted in a finding of “founded” abuse
 - Founded child abuse assessments involved 8,592 children
- Of the total number of abused or neglected children, 4,983 (47%) were 5 years of age or younger, 2,696 (26%) were between 6-10 years, and the remaining 2,855 (27%) were older than 11 years
- Of all substantiated child abuse or neglect:
 - 53% was neglect (denial of critical care)
 - 25% was dangerous substance
 - 7% was physical abuse
 - 9% was presence of illegal drugs in a child’s body
 - 5% 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:

- 204 DHS child protective workers were assigned an average of 15 cases a month, including cases alleging adult abuse.
- 296 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. On July 1, 2020, Iowa transitioned into new Family-Centered Services (FCS) contracts to align with Family First legislation. The Safety Plan Services/Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency (FSRP) Services and Community Care contracts ended June 30, 2020.
- Provide free, voluntary, non-DHS services for families with low re-abuse risk. Results for January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 under the Community Care contract include:
 - 97.7% of families referred to Community Care did not have a child adjudicated CINA with DHS providing supervision or placement within six months of the date of referral to Community Care.
 - 87.4% 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.

Results for July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 under the new FCS contracts include:

- 99.2% of families referred for Non-Agency Voluntary Services safely maintained the children within their own home during the case.
- Focus on best-practice results (lowering rates of re-abuse, children have permanency and stability, etc.) Results for January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 include:
 - Safety Plan Services
 - 95.1% of children were not removed from their homes during provision of Safety Plan Services.
 - 99.2% of children did not suffer maltreatment during provision of Safety Plan Services.
 - FSRP Services
 - 75.0% of children were safe from abuse during provision of FSRP Services and for 12 months following end date of service delivery.
 - 70.7% 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.

Results for July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 include:

- Agency Solution Based Casework (SBC)
 - 98.3% of families referred for services safely maintained the children within their own home or with kin/fictive kin caregivers during the case.

The Cost of Child welfare: FY19 Actual Expenditure

Major Services	State dollars*	Other dollars*	Total*	Average Monthly Number Served – FY20	
Family centered services	- \$ 2.0	\$35.1	\$37.1	5,174	families served (at least one child per family)
Family foster care	- \$10.5	\$ 7.2	\$17.7	1,756	children in licensed foster care
Group care	- \$17.4	\$ 1.9	\$19.3	427	children in highly structured group settings
Adoption subsidies	- \$35.9	\$ 41.4	\$77.3	10,038	(subsidies paid until adopted child reaches 18)
Aged-out program (PAL)	- \$ 0.3	\$ 3.1	\$ 3.4	439	aged-out youth receiving stipends, counseling
Shelter care	- \$ 4.0	\$ 0.7	\$ 4.7	129	children served in average month
DHS social workers	- \$26.4	\$37.5	\$63.9	*millions	