

Child Welfare Indicators

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Caseload

- The total caseload of DCYF on December 31, 2016 was 6,699, including 2,141 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,566 children living in adoption settings. After an increase in caseload numbers for the past two years, this total caseload shows a decrease from 7,089 in 2015.

Child Abuse and Neglect

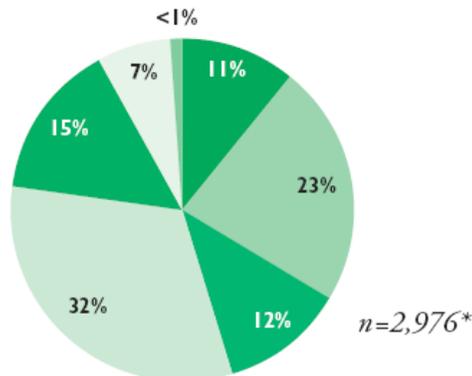
- Almost half (46%) of the victims of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island in 2016 were young children under age six and one-third (34%) were age three and younger.
- In 2016, the child abuse and neglect rate for Rhode Island as a whole was 12.3 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate in the four core cities was 19.8 per 1,000 children, compared to 8.7 per 1,000 in the remainder of the state.

Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2016 By Type of Neglect/Abuse

Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2016

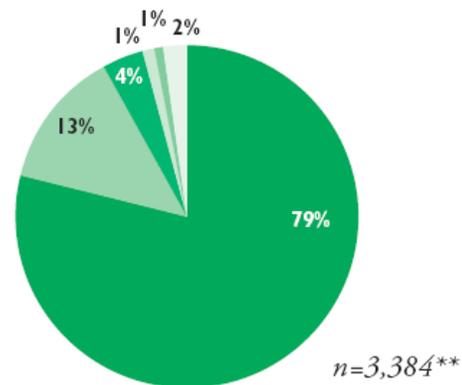
By Age of Victim*

11% (327)	Under Age 1
23% (685)	Ages 1 to 3
12% (345)	Ages 4 to 5
32% (957)	Ages 6 to 11
15% (438)	Ages 12 to 15
7% (222)	Ages 16 and Older
<1% (2)	Unknown



By Type of Neglect/Abuse**

79% (2,673)	Neglect
13% (450)	Physical Abuse
4% (134)	Sexual Abuse
1% (50)	Medical Neglect
1% (18)	Emotional Abuse
2% (59)	Other



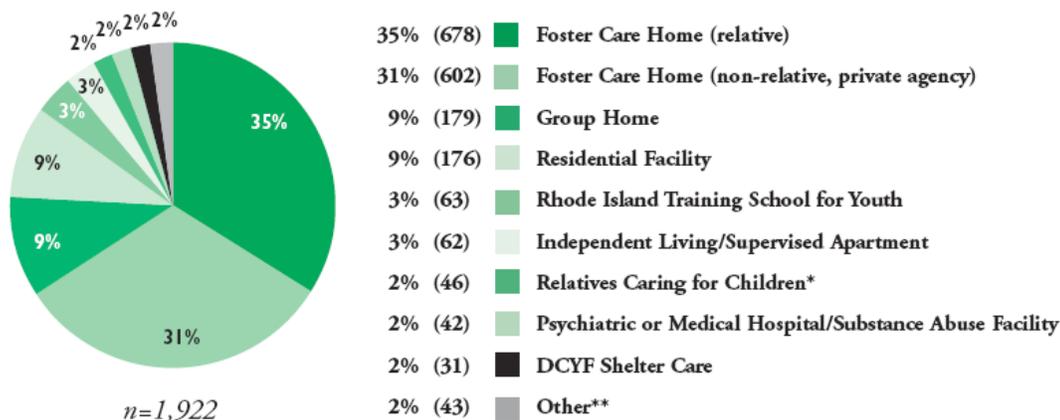
- In 2016, 79% of all instances of child maltreatment were a result of neglect, 13% were physical abuse, 4% were sexual abuse, 1% were medical neglect, 1% were emotional abuse, and 2% were other types of abuse.

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- Between 2011 and 2015, there were 639 emergency department visits, 169 hospitalizations, and seven deaths of Rhode Island children under age 18 due to child abuse and/or neglect.

Out-of-Home-Placement

Children in Out-of-Home Placement, Rhode Island, December 31, 2016



*Relatives caring for children are classified as an out-of-home placement by DCYF, despite the fact that these relatives did not receive monetary payments from DCYF to care for the children and the children were never removed and never needed to be removed from the relatives' homes. In these cases, the relative caring for the child initiated contact with DCYF to receive assistance from the agency.

**The placement category "Other" includes: runaway youth in DCYF care or those with unauthorized absences (36), pre-adoptive homes (5), and minors with mother in shelter/group home/residential facility (2).

- As of December 31, 2016, there were 1,922 children under age 21 in the care of DCYF who were in out-of-home placements.
- The total DCYF caseload includes 63 children in out-of-state placements/other agency custody, three children receiving respite care services, one youth in Job Corps, and two children in other placements.
- In FFY 2016, 13.2% of children in Rhode Island who entered out-of-home placement re-entered care within 12 months of a prior episode, above the national standard of 8.6%.
- Placement Stability:** In FFY 2016, 11.2% of the 1,289 children who had been in out-of-home care for less than one year had experienced three or more placements, up from 10.9% in FFY 2015. Three or more placements were experienced by 26.7% of the 827 children who were in care between 12 and 24 months, up from 24.7% in FFY 2015. In FFY 2016, 51% of the 737 children who had been in DCYF care for 24 months experienced three or more placements, down from 54.8% in FFY 2015.

Adoption and Permanency

- In FFY 2016, 1,220 children in out-of-home placement in Rhode Island exited foster care. Of the children who exited care, 82% exited to permanency (adoption, guardianship or reunification).

Exits from Foster Care*, Rhode Island, FFY 2016

	ALL EXITS	WITH DISABILITY	OVER AGE 12 AT ENTRY
Adoption	23%	22%	2%
Guardianship	11%	7%	6%
Reunification	48%	42%	49%
Aged Out	12%	NA**	29%
Other	6%	29%	15%
TOTAL NUMBER	1,220	381	430

Source: *Safety, permanency, and well-being in Rhode Island: Child welfare outcomes annual report for FY 2016*. (2017). New Haven, CT: Prepared by the Consultation Center, Yale University School of Medicine for the Data Analytic Center of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Foster Care refers to all out-of-home placements, consistent with language used in federal reports.

**Children with a disability who age out are included in the “other” category.

- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months from the time of removal from the home decreased from 68% in FFY 2015 to 65.9% in FFY 2016. The national standard is 76.2%.
- In FFY 2016, 40% of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system were adopted within 24 months from the time of removal from their home, up from 39% in FFY 2015. Rhode Island exceeded the national standard of 32% of adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child’s removal in FFY 2016.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

- Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because they have a parent who is unemployed, abusive, neglectful, incarcerated, ill, and/or has a substance abuse problem.
- Between 2011 and 2015, there were a total of 13,569 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents. During this time period, there were 6,044 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 63% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.

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Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Of the 3,097 inmates awaiting trial or serving a sentence at the ACI who were surveyed as of September 30, 2016 and answered the question on number of children, 1,857 inmates reported having 4,146 children. Thirty-six percent of sentenced mothers and 12% of sentenced fathers had sentences that were six months or less.

Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

- Children are exposed to domestic violence in several ways. They may witness or hear violent events, become directly involved by trying to intervene, or experience the aftermath of violence by seeing their parent’s emotional and physical injuries or damage done to their homes.
- In Rhode Island in 2014 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were 5,265 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, up 5% from 5,028 incidents in 2013. Children were reported present in 35% (1,856) of incidents in 2014. Rhode Island police officers document children’s exposure to violence on reporting forms by noting the number and ages of minor children living in the home, how many were present during the incident, how many saw the incident and how many heard it.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Black, Native American, and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, and Asian peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system. Nationally, minority children experience disparate treatment as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. They are more likely than White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in the child welfare system longer, have less contact with child welfare staff, and to have lower reunification rates.

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Youth at the Training School (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	3.7	9.3	21.7	2.3	17.4	5.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	10.5	23.6	85.1	4.2	34.7	17.1
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	11.8	17.7	1.2	12.9	8.6

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2016. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RIC HIST Database, December 31, 2016. Population denominators used for *Youth at the Training School* are youth ages 13-18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* and *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1.