

Child Welfare Indicators

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

- The total DCYF caseload on December 31, 2019 was 6,836, including 2,016 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,556 children living in adoption settings.

Child Abuse and Neglect

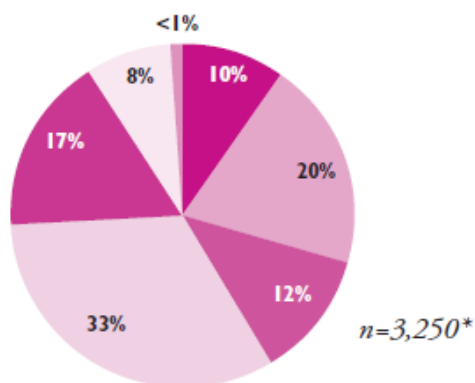
- Almost half (42%) of the victims of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island in 2019 were young children under age six and almost one-third (30%) were ages three and younger.
- In 2019, the child abuse and neglect rate for Rhode Island as a whole was 13.9 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate in the four core cities was 20.1 per 1,000 children, compared to 10.8 per 1,000 in the remainder of the state.



Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2019

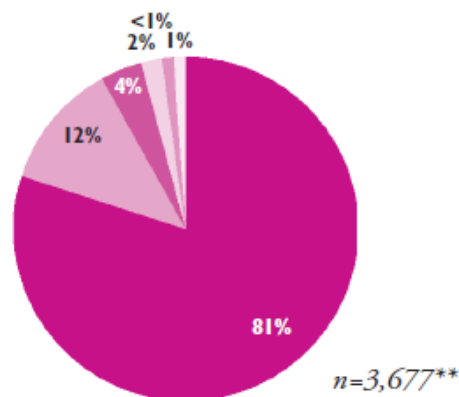
By Age of Victim*

10% (328)	Under Age 1
20% (655)	Ages 1 to 3
12% (391)	Ages 4 to 5
33% (1,068)	Ages 6 to 11
17% (557)	Ages 12 to 15
8% (250)	Ages 16 and Older
<1% (1)	Unknown



By Type of Neglect/Abuse**

81% (2,968)	Neglect
12% (453)	Physical Abuse
4% (146)	Sexual Abuse
2% (61)	Medical Neglect
<1% (13)	Emotional Abuse
1% (36)	Other

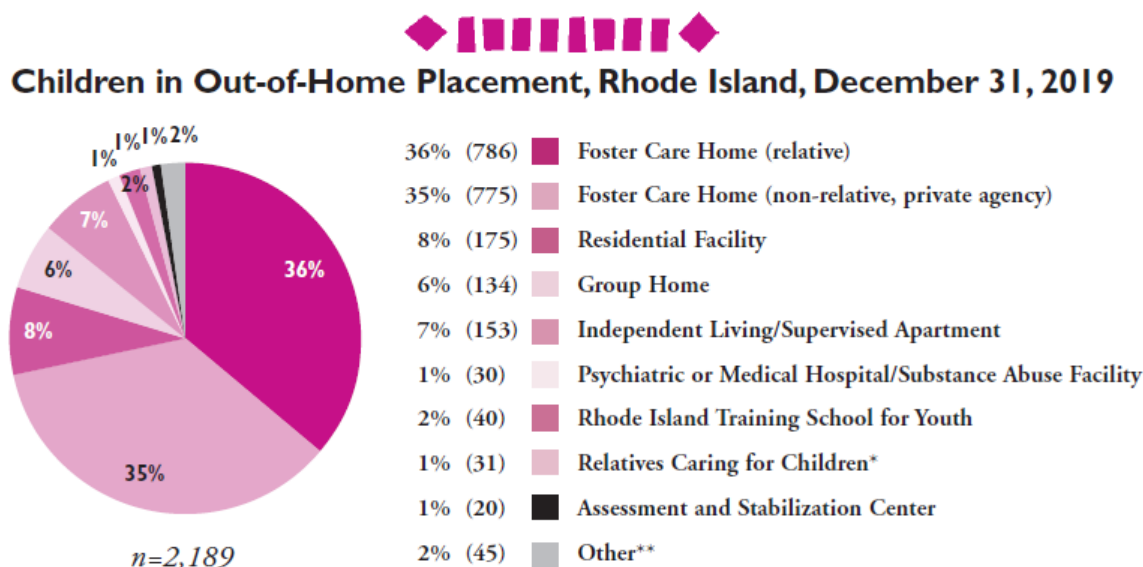


- In 2019, 81% of all instances of child maltreatment were a result of neglect, 12% were physical abuse, 4% were sexual abuse, 2% were medical neglect, <1% were emotional abuse, and 1% were other types of abuse.

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- Between 2014 and 2018, there were 484 emergency department visits, 111 hospitalizations, and five deaths of Rhode Island children under age 18 due to child abuse and/or neglect.

Out-of-Home Placement



**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 (37), pre-adoptive homes (2), and minors with their mother in shelter/group home/residential facility (6).*

Source: RI Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), 2019. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- As of December 31, 2019, there were 2,189 children under age 21 in the care of DCYF who were in out-of-home placements.
- Of the 309 children and youth in group homes or residential facilities in Rhode Island in 2019, 80% (247) were age 14 and older.

Adoption and Permanency

- Of the 1,368 Rhode Island children in entry cohort FY 2018, 34% (469) children in out-of-home placement in Rhode Island exited foster care to permanency (reunification, guardianship, living with other relatives, or adoption) within 12 months of entering out-of-home placement.

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- Among the 469 Rhode Island children who achieved permanency within 12 months, 83% lived in one out-of-home placement, 11% lived in two placements, and 6% lived in three or more placements.



Children Achieving Permanency, by Discharge Reason, Rhode Island, Entry Cohort FY 2018*

DISCHARGE REASON	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	MEDIAN DAYS IN PLACEMENT
Reunification with Parents	418	89%	183
Guardianship	26	6%	271
Adoption – Direct Consent	11	2%	306
Living with Relative(s)	8	2%	54
Adoption	6	1%	275
<i>Total Number</i>	<i>469</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>195</i>

Source: *Permanency analytic report FY19* (n.d.) Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. *Data cannot be compared to Factbooks prior to 2018. The data are now reported by entry cohort and represent children who achieved permanency within 12 months of entering out-of-home placement, excluding children who entered care at age 18 or older. Permanency includes reunification, guardianship, living with relative, adoption, and reunification.

- During Calendar Year 2019, 182 children in the care of DCYF were adopted in Rhode Island, down 29% from the 255 children adopted in 2018.
- On January 6, 2020, there were 276 Rhode Island children in the care of DCYF who were waiting to be adopted. Of these, 41% of children were under age five, 28% were ages six to 10, 25% were ages 11 to 15, and 6% were ages 16 and over.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

- Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because of child abuse or neglect, parental divorce or economic challenges or they may have a parent who is unemployed, incarcerated, ill, struggling with substance abuse, or coping with other problems.
- Between 2014 and 2018, there were a total of 14,276 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents. During this time period, there were 6,335 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 59% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Of the 2,690 inmates awaiting trial or serving a sentence at the ACI on September 30, 2019 who answered the question on number of children, 1,610 inmates reported having 3,739 children. Thirty-seven percent of sentenced mothers and 15% of sentenced fathers had sentences that were six months or less.

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Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

- Children can be exposed to domestic violence in a number of ways. They may witness it directly (by seeing and/or hearing violent incidents), have their lives disrupted by moving or being separated from a parent, and/or may be used by the abusive parent to manipulate or gain control over the victim.
- In Rhode Island in 2017 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were 5,647 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, down less than one percent from 5,673 incidents in 2016. Children were reported present in 27% (1,501) of incidents in 2017. 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 and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, Native American, and Asian peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system. Nationally, children of color 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 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)	1.1	5.9	14.7	0.8	5.0	3.0
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.7	15.3	46.6	1.7	33.1	12.2
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	12.7	17.9	2.3	6.4	7.2

Sources: Youth at the Training School data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2019. Children of Incarcerated Parents data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2019 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, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2019. Population denominators used for Youth at the Training School are youth ages 13 to 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.