

Child Welfare Indicators

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

- The total DCYF caseload on December 31, 2017 was 7,133, including 2,318 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,599 children living in adoption settings.

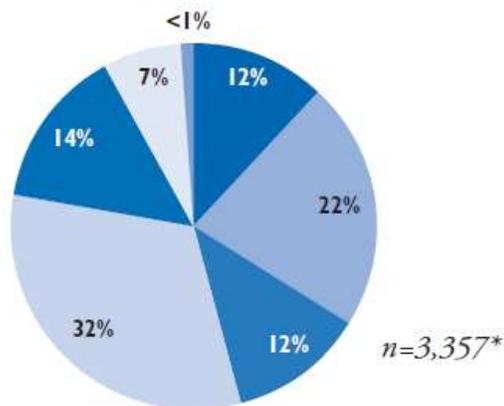
Child Abuse and Neglect

- About half (52%) of the victims of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island in 2017 were young children under age six and one-third (34%) were age three and younger.
- In 2017, the child abuse and neglect rate for Rhode Island as a whole was 14.6 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate in the four core cities was 23.5 per 1,000 children, compared to 10.2 per 1,000 in the remainder of the state.

Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2017

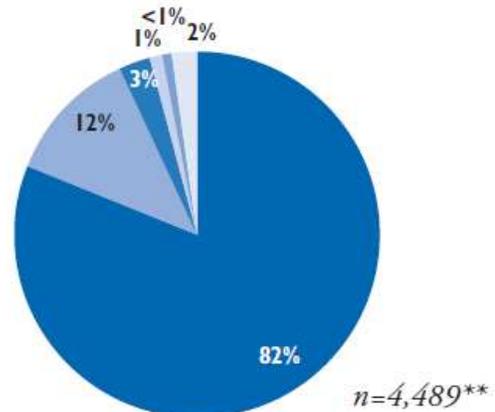
By Age of Victim*

12% (397)	Under Age 1
22% (742)	Ages 1 to 3
12% (412)	Ages 4 to 5
32% (1,087)	Ages 6 to 11
14% (480)	Ages 12 to 15
7% (237)	Ages 16 and Older
<1% (2)	Unknown



By Type of Neglect/Abuse**

82% (3,701)	Neglect
12% (521)	Physical Abuse
3% (116)	Sexual Abuse
1% (53)	Medical Neglect
<1% (15)	Emotional Abuse
2% (83)	Other



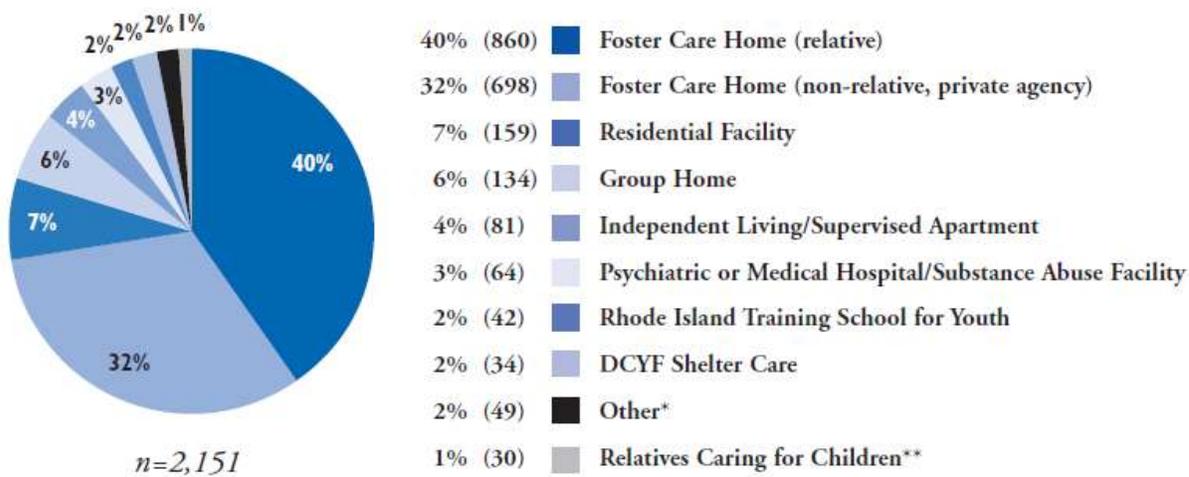
- In 2017, 82% of all instances of child maltreatment were a result of neglect, 12% were physical abuse, 3% were sexual abuse, 1% were medical neglect, <1% were emotional abuse, and 2% were other types of abuse.

Child Welfare Indicators

- Between 2012 and 2016, there were 559 emergency department visits, 139 hospitalizations, and six 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, 2017



*The placement category “Other” includes: runaway youth in DCYF care or those with unauthorized absences (45), pre-adoptive homes (1), and minors with their mother in shelter/group home/residential facility (3).

**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.

- As of December 31, 2017, there were 2,151 children under age 21 in the care of DCYF who were in out-of-home placements, and 57 were in out-of-state placements/other agency custody.
- Of the 171 children assessed by RI DCYF from January 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017, who were deemed appropriate for foster care but then placed into congregate care, 85% (145) were teens.

Adoption and Permanency

- In FFY 2017, 65% of children under age 18 in the care of DCYF exited foster care. Of the children who exited, 97% exited to permanency (reunification, guardianship, living with other relatives, or adoption).

Child Welfare Indicators

- Among Rhode Island children who entered foster care during SFY 2015, 22% re-entered care within 12 months of achieving permanency (exited to guardianship, reunification, or living with a relative).

Exits from Foster Care*, Rhode Island, FFY 2017

	ALL EXITS	OVER AGE 12 AT ENTRY
Adoption	23%	3%
Guardianship	10%	7%
Reunification	55%	59%
Aged Out	7%	17%
Other**	5%	14%
TOTAL	1,048	357

Source: RICHIST RPT406D. 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.

**Other includes discharge reason of absent from care, detained at the Rhode Island Training School, living with other relatives, or transfer to another agency.

Note: Percentages include some children over age 18 who are still in the care of DCYF.

- In FFY 2017, 65% of children under age 18 in the care of DCYF were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months from the time of removal from their home.
- In Rhode Island in FFY 2017, 40% of children under age 18 exiting foster care to adoption were adopted within 24 months from the time of removal from their home.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

- Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because of parental divorce or economic challenges or they have a parent who is unemployed, incarcerated, ill, struggling with substance abuse, or coping with other problems.
- Between 2012 and 2016, there were a total of 13,966 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents. During this time period, there were 6,324 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 56% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- Of the 2,889 inmates awaiting trial or serving a sentence at the ACI on September 30, 2017 who answered the question on number of children, 1,725 inmates reported having 4,137 children. Twenty-seven percent of sentenced mothers and 15% of sentenced fathers had sentences that were six months or less.

Child Welfare Indicators

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 2015 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were 5,553 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, up 5% from 5,265 incidents in 2014. Children were reported present in 28% (1,549) of incidents in 2015. 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, 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)	3.7	9.1	21.0	0.8	12.4	4.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.4	17.0	74.0	5.7	29.4	14.6
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	13.5	14.4	1.3	12.9	9.6

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2017. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2017 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, 2017. 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, and PCT12K.