

CDHS Division of Child Welfare

Runaway Rules & Data

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Current Rules



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

Volume 7 Rules on Runaway

- Volume 7, or Social Services Rules in the Colorado Code of Regulations, contains rules pertaining both to counties and to providers regarding children and youth who enter runaway status.
 - Important to look at both sets of rules to have a comprehensive picture of responsibilities and reporting.
 - [Volume 7 located here](#)
- In addition, the federal government also requires states to report on children and youth in out-of-home placement that enter runaway status.
 - AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) requires that states track runaway spans for children and youth in out of home (OOH) care.
 - This is accomplished in Colorado in that if a child or youth runs away from their placement, that placement is end-dated and an new runaway authorization is opened.
 - [Publicly available ROM data here](#)



Volume 7: Provider Rules

- 7.708.52B (12 CCR 2509-8)
 - The foster care home shall notify the parent(s), guardian(s), or placing authority as soon as possible upon discovery that a foster child has run away.
- 7.714.933B (12 CCR 2509-8)
 - The facility shall notify the legal custodian, and/or placing authority as soon as possible upon discovery that as child has run away.
- 7.701.52A (12 CCR 2509-8) Critical Incident Reporting for 24-hour agencies, facilities, and day treatment centers:
 - Within twenty four (24) hours, excluding weekends and holidays, of the occurrence of a critical incident at the facility or within twenty four (24) hours of a child's return to the facility: (5f) Report if a child/youth leaves without consent if under the age of 18 and does not return to the facility or foster home within 24 hours.
 - This rule definition was derived from the Runaway/Walkaway Group that involved Department staff, counties, and providers in 2013 and 2014.



Volume 7: County Rules

- 7.304.53G (12 CCR 2509-4)
 - The county department shall notify the court of jurisdiction and other parties within 10 calendar days of receipt of a report that a child has run away from placement.
- 7.303.4(B) (12 CCR 2509-4)
 - If a child/youth who is in the legal custody of the county department of human or social services is missing then the county departments shall:
 1. Report immediately and no later than twenty-four (24) hours from when the county department receives notification that the child/youth is missing, to the local law enforcement agency and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The county department shall document the details of the reports in the state automated case management system.
 2. Make reasonable efforts to locate a child/youth who is missing and document those efforts a minimum of once per month in the state automated case management system:
 3. Upon the return of the child/youth, make reasonable efforts to complete the following activities and document those efforts in the state automated case management system:
 - a. Determine the primary factors that contributed to the child/youth being missing;
 - b. Determine the child/youth's experiences while missing, including conducting sex trafficking screen to determine if the child/youth is a possible sex trafficking victim; and,
 - c. Respond to factors identified in 3, A and B, above, in current and subsequent services.





Current Data



COLORADO

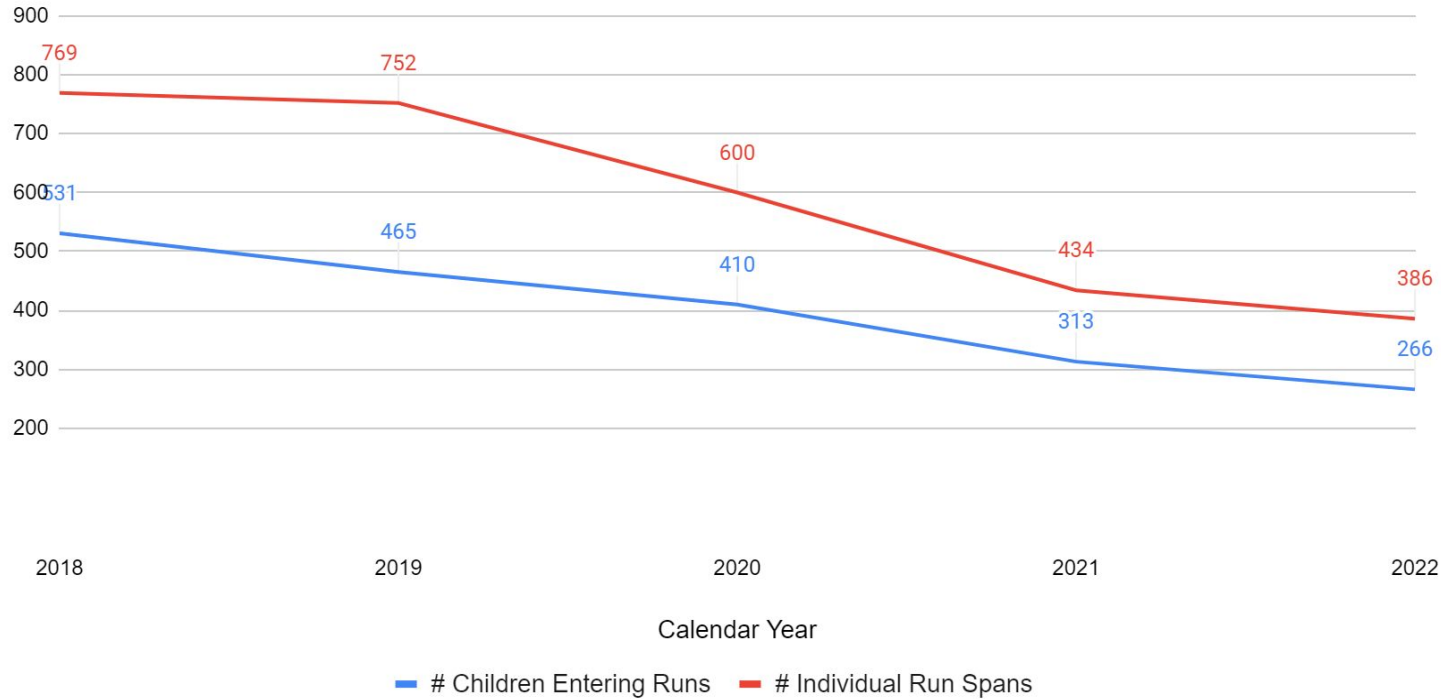
Department of Human Services

Runaway Critical Incidents by Calendar Year, 2018 - 2022



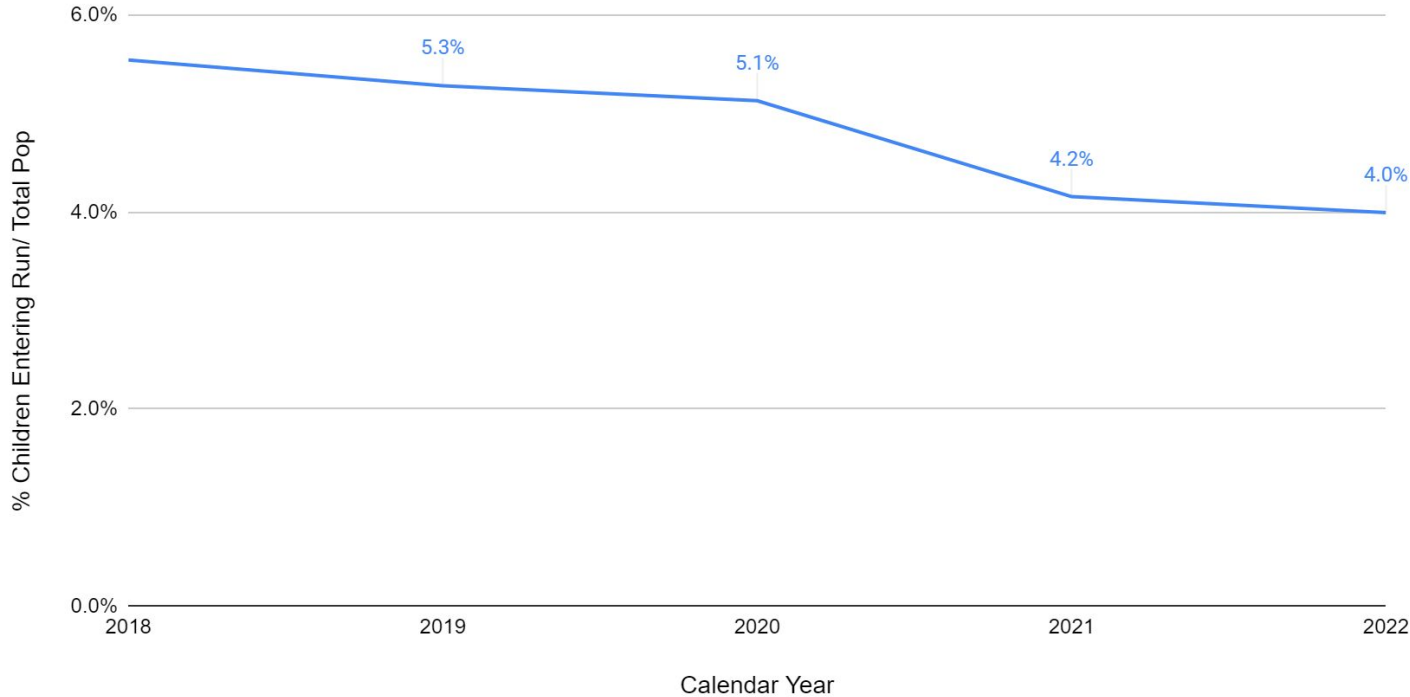
Data retrieved from Trails, ROM 02/06/2023, Child Welfare-only

Total Children Entering Runaway and Total Unique Run Spans



Data retrieved from Trails, ROM 02/06/2023, Child Welfare-only

% of Children Entering Runaway of the Out of Home Population



Since 2018 the total number of children and youth in out-of-home placement during a given year has dropped from 9,600 to 6,700 ([Foster Care Counts, Foster Care Count during Period](#))

Data retrieved from Trails, ROM 02/06/2023, Child Welfare-only

Questions and Answers

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