ALASKA'S CHILDREN 2016

Alaska's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	736,732	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	15.8%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	186,769	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	14.4%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	11.2%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	17.6%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Alaska had 15,041 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 7,344 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2014, there were 2,484 victims of abuse or neglect in Alaska, a rate of 13.3 per 1,000 children, increasing 1.5% from 2013. Of these children, 80.8% were neglected, 13.7% were physically abused, and 5.5% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 12.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010. 10
- In 2014, there were 3 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alaska. 11
- 2,190 children in Alaska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 1,791 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 868 aged 5 or younger, and 157 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 22.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.¹³
- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in Alaska, 26% were white, 2% were black, 3% were Hispanic, 46% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 20% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 860 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Alaska, 48% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 367 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alaska in 2014, increasing 11.9% from 328 in 2013.¹⁶
- Of the 2,190 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 704 or 32.1% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 5,724 grandparents in Alaska had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. 18
- 415 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 were living with relatives while in care. 19



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alaska decreased from 9,466 in 2014 to 8,541 in 2015, a 9.8% change. 3,152 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 10.5% from 2014.²⁰
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Alaska, 29 received TANF benefits. 21
- \$75,949,483 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Alaska, including 52% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 49% on nonassistance. 22
- \$12,855,268 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alaska, serving 19,605 participants.²³
- In 2014, Alaska distributed \$96,470,329 in child support funds, decreasing 0.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 51,000 children in Alaska lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In 2014, the unemployment rate in Alaska was 6.8%.²⁶
- 12% of households in Alaska were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2014, Alaska had a monthly average of 3,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 4,200 were recepients in 2012.²⁸
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alaska, a family of three could make no more than \$54,288 at application, which is equivalent to 73% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2015, Alaska had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2014, Head Start served 1,632 children in Alaska, decreasing 3.32% from 2013.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 86,571 children in Alaska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, decreasing 0.4% from 2013.³²
- In 2014, Alaska had 9,661 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, decreasing 41.7% from 2013, when 16,566 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2014, Alaska had 21,252 uninsured children.³⁴
- 672 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alaska in 2014.³⁵



- 64 infants under age 1 died in Alaska in 2013.³⁶
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alaska was 9.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 59.5 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 27.8 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 819 adults and adolescents and 7 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alaska.³⁸
- In 2014, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 51,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Alaska.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 64 children in Alaska aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013. 42
- 72% of high school students in Alaska graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 5,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alaska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.⁴⁴
- 13,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.⁴⁵
- 33% of young adults in Alaska ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2014, there were no reports of children in Alaska aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 18 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 12 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alaska in 2014, compared to 18 in 2013.⁴⁸
- 1,863 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alaska in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 129 of the arrests in 2014.⁴⁹
- 195 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alaska in 2013.⁵⁰



CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁵¹

- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to a 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these
 high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA
 recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care. ⁵⁶
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree. 58
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to
 adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number
 represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.⁵⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Alaska spent \$149,118,449 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$44,015,064 was from federal funds, \$105,103,385 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁶⁰
- In 2012, of the \$44,015,064 in federal funds received for child welfare, 68.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 18.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 11.4% came from other federal sources. 61
- Alaska received \$18,901,384 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$1,926,448 for maintenance payments and \$16,974,936 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶²



¹ "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

² U.S. Census Bureau (2016). *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

³ Ibid

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

- ⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-7: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

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- ¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.
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 Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.
- ¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

- ¹⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2013(Percent).* Retrieved February 24, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2638,2601,2600,2598,2603,2597,2602,1353/12992,12993.
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- ¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2005 FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_adopted2014.pdf.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014: Table: Children in Public Foster Care on September 30th of Each Year Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children-waiting2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2014.



⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals*, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

- ¹⁹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Placement Type, 2013, Foster Family Home Relative (Number)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-type#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/2621/12994.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Families. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2014: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2014. Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.
- ²¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2015) A State by State Look at TANF: State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs Do Not Provide Adequate Safety Net for Poor Families: TANF Provides a Safety Net to Few Poor Families: Map TANF-to-poverty ratio: # of families receiving TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children (2013-2014). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.cbpp.org/state-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-programs-do-not-provide-adequate-safety-net-for-poor.
- ²² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). TANF Financial Data FY 2014: Table B.1.: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Assistance in FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2014.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). TANF Financial Data FY 2014: Table B.2.: Summary of Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures in FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2014.

Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

- ²³ USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program.
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- ²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2015). FY2014 Preliminary Report. Retrieved February 2, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-report.
- ²⁵ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2014). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race, by State, 2013, Total Race (Number)*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7244-children-living-in-households-with-a-high-housing-cost-burden?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/14287,14288.
- ²⁶ Center for American Progress. (2015). *State of the states report 2015*. Retrieved March 10, 2016 from https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/22120741/2015_states_all.pdf.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2015). *FY 2014 Preliminary Data Table 1 Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served.* Retrieved February 2, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-data-table-1.
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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2014). FY 2012 Final Data Table 1 Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served. Retrieved February 2, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy-2012-ccdf-data-tables-final-table-1.
- ²⁹ Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2015). *National Women's Law Center, Building blocks, state child care assistance policies 2015*. Retrieved March February 16, 2016 from http://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CC RP_Building_Blocks_Assistance_Policies_2015.pdf.
- Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit. ³⁰ Ibid.
- Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
- ³¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning &Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2015). *Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2014*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2014-hs-program-factsheet.html.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning &Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2014). *Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2013*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2013-hs-program-factsheet.html.



Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

32 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2015, May 3). FY 2014 Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Retrieved February 16, 2016 from Medicaid.Gov: https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2014-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.

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 Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.
- ³⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). Types of Health Insurance Coverage By Age, Civilian noninstitutionalized population: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from

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- ³⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016). Estimated Totals by State of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2013-2014 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Estimated Totals (in Thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 20: Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2013 and 2014 NSDUHs. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from $\underline{http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2014.pdf}.$
- ⁴⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2016). 2013-2014 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-based estimated totals (in thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 22: Needing but not receiving treatment for alcohol use in the past year, by age group and state: Estimated numbers (in thousands), annual averages based on 2013 and 2014 NSDUHs. Retrieved February 22, 2016 from http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2014.pdf.
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- ⁵⁰ Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2015). Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement. Retrieved February 26, 2016 from http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/State_Facility.asp.
- ⁵¹ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety



issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

- ⁵² U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child welfare: HHS could play a greater role in helping child welfare agencies recruit and retain staff.* Retrieved March 9, 2016 from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf.
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- ⁵⁵ Gallant, M. (2013). *Does your organization have a healthy employee turnover rate?* Retrieved March 7, 2016 from http://www.halogensoftware.com/blog/does-your-organization-have-healthy-employee-turnover.
- ⁵⁶ Strolin-Goltzman, J., Kollar, S., & Trinkle, J. (2009). Listening to the voices of children in foster care: Youths speak out about child welfare workforce turnover and selection. *Social Work*, 55(1), 47-53.
- ⁵⁷ Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (2011). NSCAW II baseline report caseworker characteristics, child welfare services, and experiences of children placed in out-of-home care. Washington, DC. Retrieved February 19, 2016 from www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/nscaw2_ew.pdf.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid.
- ⁵⁹ Colorado Department of Human Services. (2014). *Colorado child welfare county workload study*. Retrieved March 7, 2016 from http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditor1.nsf/All/E5214710B77C878487257D320050F29A/\$FILE/1354S%20-%20Colorado%20Childrens%20Welfare%20Workload%20Study%20Report%20August%202014.pdf.
- ⁶⁰ DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M., & Cooper, H. (2014). Federal, State, and Local spending to address child abuse and neglect in SFY 2012: Appendix A:SFY 2012 State-by-State Data. 2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey. Washington, DC. Retrieved February 26, 2016 from http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf. Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

 61 Ibid.
- 62 Ibid.

