ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2016

Arkansas's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,966,369	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	26.4%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	706,140	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	24.4%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	18.9%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	30.1%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Arkansas had 51,406 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 32,111 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2014, there were 8,971 victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 12.7 per 1,000 children, decreasing 13.5% from 2013. Of these children, 54.6% were neglected, 21.5% were physically abused, and 21.9% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 23.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010. 10
- In 2014, there were 21 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Arkansas. 11
- 3,806 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 3,756 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 1,727 aged 5 or younger, and 395 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.3% 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 Arkansas, 62% were white, 20% were black, 6% were Hispanic, less than 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0% were Asian or Pacific Islander and between 11-12% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity. 14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,614 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Arkansas, 37% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 743 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Arkansas in 2014, increasing 7.5% from 691 in 2013.¹⁶
- Of the 3,806 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 1,034 or 27.2% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 37,653 grandparents in Arkansas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁸
- 614 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 Arkansas decreased from 13,493 in 2014 to 11,174 in 2015, a 17.2% change. 5,010 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 16.5% from 2014.²⁰
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Arkansas, 7 received TANF benefits.²¹
- \$140,899,391 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Arkansas, including 8% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 92% on nonassistance. 22
- \$43,912,764 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arkansas, serving 83,289 participants.²³
- In 2014, Arkansas distributed \$230,001,139 in child support funds, increasing 1.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 211,000 children in Arkansas 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 Arkansas was 6.1%.²⁶
- 19.9% of households in Arkansas 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, Arkansas had a monthly average of 7,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 7,100 were recepients in 2012.²⁸
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arkansas, a family of three could make no more than \$29,760 at application, which is equivalent to 60% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2015, Arkansas had 4.409 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2014, Head Start served 10,034 children in Arkansas, decreasing 10.85% from 2013.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 406,178 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, decreasing 0.2% from 2013.³²
- In 2014, Arkansas had 100,112 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, decreasing 8.4% from 2013, when 109,301 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2014, Arkansas had 34,079 uninsured children.³⁴
- 3,432 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arkansas in 2014.³⁵



- 288 infants under age 1 died in Arkansas in 2013.³⁶
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Arkansas was 16.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 75.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 39.5 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 5,124 adults and adolescents and 39 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.³⁸
- In 2014, an estimated 13,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 159,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arkansas.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 222 children in Arkansas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.⁴²
- 85% of high school students in Arkansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 14,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Arkansas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.⁴⁴
- 56,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.⁴⁵
- 30% of young adults in Arkansas ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2014, there were 10 reports of children in Arkansas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 38 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2014, compared to 35 in 2013.⁴⁸
- 7,936 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arkansas in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 340 of the arrests in 2014.⁴⁹
- 681 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas 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 ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Arkansas spent \$143,244,928 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$81,584,065 was from federal funds, \$61,660,863 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁶⁰
- In 2012, of the \$81,584,065 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.4% was from Medicaid, 2.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 12.8% was from TANF, and 7.9% came from other federal sources.⁶¹
- Arkansas received \$38,224,329 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$10,036,872 for maintenance payments and \$28,187,457 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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¹¹ 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 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

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 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/.

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 Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.
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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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- 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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- 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.
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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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.

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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.
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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 $\underline{http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2014.pdf}.$
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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.

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- 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.

