CALIFORNIA’S CHILDREN 2016

California’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>Population, Children Under 18</th>
<th>State Poverty Rate</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38,802,500</td>
<td>9,151,579</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, California had 366,046 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 230,763 reports were referred for investigation.8

- In 2014, there were 75,033 victims of abuse or neglect in California, a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 children, decreasing 0.8% from 2013. Of these children, 85.3% were neglected, 9.1% were physically abused, and 4.9% were sexually abused.9

- The number of child victims has decreased 2.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010.10

- In 2014, there were 131 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in California.11

- 56,771 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 56,202 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 20,937 aged 5 or younger, and 12,063 were 16 or older.12

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1% 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 California, 21% were white, 20% were black, 51% were Hispanic, 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2% were Asian or Pacific Islander and between 5-6% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 30,872 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in California, 54% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.15

- 5,471 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in California in 2014, decreasing 1.3% from 5,541 in 2013.16

- Of the 56,771 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 14,098 or 24.8% waiting to be adopted.17

- In 2014, approximately 284,388 grandparents in California had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18

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18,297 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 California decreased from 1,298,103 in 2014 to 1,122,197 in 2015, a 13.6% change. 454,008 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 15.5% from 2014.20
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in California, 65 received TANF benefits.21
- $6,341,455,425 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in California, including 49% on basic assistance, 1% on child care, 2% on transportation, and 45% on nonassistance.22
- $764,175,030 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in California, serving 1,348,939 participants.23
- In 2014, California distributed $2,208,197,922 in child support funds, increasing 0.1% from 2013.24
- 4,438,000 children in California 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 California was 7.5%.26
- 13.5% of households in California 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, California had a monthly average of 111,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 111,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 101,800 were recipients in 2012.28
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California, a family of three could make no more than $42,216 at application, which is equivalent to 65% of the state’s median income.29
- As of early 2015, California had waiting lists at the local level for child care assistance.30
- In 2014, Head Start served 101,189 children in California, increasing 2.19% from 2013.31

**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- 4,602,270 children in California were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 3.1% from 2013.32
- In 2014, California had 1,874,939 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, decreasing 2% from 2013, when 1,913,793 children were enrolled.33
• In 2014, California had 497,090 uninsured children.\textsuperscript{34}

• 33,586 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in California in 2014.\textsuperscript{35}

• 2,353 infants under age 1 died in California in 2013.\textsuperscript{36}

• In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in California was 9.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 38 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 21.1 births for girls ages 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{37}

• Cumulative through 2014, there were 172,642 adults and adolescents and 706 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in California.\textsuperscript{38}

• In 2014, an estimated 167,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 2,475,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in California.\textsuperscript{39}

• In 2014, approximately 84,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\textsuperscript{40}

• In 2014, approximately 119,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\textsuperscript{41}

VULNERABLE YOUTH

• 4,395 children in California aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.\textsuperscript{42}

• 80\% of high school students in California graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.\textsuperscript{43}

• 155,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in California were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.\textsuperscript{44}

• 618,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.\textsuperscript{45}

• 39.3\% of young adults in California ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.\textsuperscript{46}

• In 2014, there were 23 reports of children in California aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 139 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

• 219 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in California in 2014, compared to 258 in 2013.\textsuperscript{48}

• 83,391 children younger than 18 were arrested in California in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 7,899 of the arrests in 2014.\textsuperscript{49}
• 8,094 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in California 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 CALIFORNIA’S CHILDREN

• In 2012, California spent $3,926,431,373 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $2,129,710,118 was from federal funds, $0 from state funds, and $1,796,721,255 from local funds.60

• In 2012, of the $2,129,710,118 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 5.4% was from Medicaid, 13.5% came from Social Services Block Grant, 10.3% was from TANF, and 0.2% came from other federal sources.61

• California received $523,482,970 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including $171,978,568 for maintenance payments and $351,504,402 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.62

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.

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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.


53 Ibid.


58 Ibid.


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.