NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN 2016

New Jersey's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	8,938,175	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	15.9%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	2,012,197	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	14.9%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	11.1%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	17.9%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, New Jersey had 58,603 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 58,603 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2014, there were 11,842 victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey, a rate of 5.9 per 1,000 children, increasing 24.8% from 2013. Of these children, 79.4% were neglected, 14.8% were physically abused, and 9.4% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 31.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010.¹⁰
- In 2014, there were 8 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in New Jersey. 11
- 7,138 children in New Jersey lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 6,892 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 3,414 aged 5 or younger, and 697 were 16 or older. 12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.6% 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 New Jersey, 29% were white, 42% were black, 20% were Hispanic, less than 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 10% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,136 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in New Jersey, 59% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,024 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Jersey in 2014, increasing 10.5% from 927 in 2013.¹⁶
- Of the 7,138 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 2,593 or 36.3% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 49,690 grandparents in New Jersey had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸



• 2,434 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 New Jersey decreased from 66,125 in 2014 to 58,571 in 2015, a 11.4% change. 25,042 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 10.7% from 2014. 20
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in New Jersey, 24 received TANF benefits. 21
- \$1,200,433,479 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in New Jersey, including 18% on basic assistance, 3% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 77% on nonassistance.²²
- \$104,297,765 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Jersey, serving 163,049 participants.²³
- In 2014, New Jersey distributed \$1,146,736,488 in child support funds, increasing 0.5% from 2013.²⁴
- 891,000 children in New Jersey 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 New Jersey was 6.6%.²⁶
- 11.7% of households in New Jersey 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, New Jersey had a monthly average of 44,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 39,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 31,400 were recepients in 2012.²⁸
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Jersey, a family of three could make no more than \$39,580 at application, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2015, New Jersey had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2014, Head Start served 15,074 children in New Jersey, increasing 2.54% from 2013.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 709,144 children in New Jersey were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 7.1% from 2013.³²
- In 2014, New Jersey had 211,371 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, increasing 2.2% from 2013, when 206,761 children were enrolled.³³



- In 2014, New Jersey had 91,842 uninsured children.³⁴
- 8,315 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Jersey in 2014.³⁵
- 460 infants under age 1 died in New Jersey in 2013.³⁶
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in New Jersey was 5.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 25 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 13.1 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 57,734 adults and adolescents and 806 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Jersey.³⁸
- In 2014, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 544,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Jersey.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 23,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 21,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past vear.⁴¹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 408 children in New Jersey aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.⁴²
- 88% of high school students in New Jersey graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.
- 27,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in New Jersey were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.⁴⁴
- 104,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school
 in 2013.⁴⁵
- 48.6% of young adults in New Jersey ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2014, there were less than 10 reports of children in New Jersey aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 34 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 37 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey in 2014, compared to 46 in 2013.⁴⁸
- 21,058 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Jersey in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,579 of the arrests in 2014.⁴⁹



• 888 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Jersey 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 NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, New Jersey spent \$962,082,727 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$308,897,721 was from federal funds, \$653,185,006 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁶⁰
- In 2012, of the \$308,897,721 in federal funds received for child welfare, 47% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 33.2% was from Medicaid, 9.8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 4% was from TANF, and 2.4% came from other federal sources.⁶¹
- New Jersey received \$84,540,618 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$26,717,211 for maintenance payments and \$57,823,407 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶²

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/.



¹ "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

³ Ibid.

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.
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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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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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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- 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-



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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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- 61 Ibid.
- 62 Ibid.

