South Dakota’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>Population, Children Under 18</th>
<th>State Poverty Rate</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</th>
<th>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>853,175</td>
<td>210,893</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, South Dakota had 15,563 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,722 reports were referred for investigation. 
- In 2014, there were 886 victims of abuse or neglect in South Dakota, a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 children, decreasing 10% from 2013. Of these children, 85.7% were neglected, 12.3% were physically abused, and 6% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 34.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010.
- In 2014, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in South Dakota.
- 1,174 children in South Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 1,485 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 530 aged 5 or younger, and 141 were 16 or older.
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 20.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.
- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in South Dakota, 31% were white, 4% were black, 7% were Hispanic, 46% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and approximately 11% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,043 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in South Dakota, 53% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.
- 159 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in South Dakota in 2014, decreasing 10.2% from 177 in 2013.
- Of the 1,174 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 336 or 28.6% waiting to be adopted.
- In 2014, approximately 7,925 grandparents in South Dakota had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.
• 226 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 were living with relatives while in care.\textsuperscript{19}

**CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT**

• The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Dakota decreased from 6,237 in 2014 to 5,947 in 2015, a 4.7% change. 3,016 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 3.4% from 2014.\textsuperscript{20}

• From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in South Dakota, 19 received TANF benefits.\textsuperscript{21}

• $27,492,637 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in South Dakota, including 56% on basic assistance, 3% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 28% on nonassistance.\textsuperscript{22}

• $11,439,696 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in South Dakota, serving 19,573 participants.\textsuperscript{23}

• In 2014, South Dakota distributed $90,759,898 in child support funds, increasing 2.1% from 2013.\textsuperscript{24}

• 42,000 children in South Dakota lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.\textsuperscript{25}

• In 2014, the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 3.4%.\textsuperscript{26}

• 11.9% of households in South Dakota 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.\textsuperscript{27}

**CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

• In 2014, South Dakota had a monthly average of 4,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 4,900 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 5,400 were recipients in 2012.\textsuperscript{28}

• In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Dakota, a family of three could make no more than $36,075 at application, which is equivalent to 58% of the state’s median income.\textsuperscript{29}

• As of early 2015, South Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\textsuperscript{30}

• In 2014, Head Start served 2,890 children in South Dakota, increasing 0.80% from 2013.\textsuperscript{31}

**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

• 66,401 children in South Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 41.4% from 2013.\textsuperscript{32}

• In 2014, South Dakota had 15,870 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, decreasing 10% from 2013, when 17,632 children were enrolled.\textsuperscript{33}
In 2014, South Dakota had 11,912 uninsured children.\textsuperscript{34}

804 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in South Dakota in 2014.\textsuperscript{35}

80 infants under age 1 died in South Dakota in 2013.\textsuperscript{36}

In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in South Dakota was 13.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 44.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26.2 births for girls ages 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{37}

Cumulative through 2014, there were 360 adults and adolescents and 6 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Dakota.\textsuperscript{38}

In 2014, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 58,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Dakota.\textsuperscript{39}

In 2014, approximately 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{41}

VULNERABLE YOUTH

59 children in South Dakota aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.\textsuperscript{42}

83\% of high school students in South Dakota graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.\textsuperscript{43}

3,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in South Dakota were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.\textsuperscript{44}

10,000 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}

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

In 2014, there were less than 10 reports of children in South Dakota aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in South Dakota in 2014, similar to the number reported in 2013.\textsuperscript{48}

4,363 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Dakota in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 75 of the arrests in 2014.\textsuperscript{49}
CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE\textsuperscript{51}

- 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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{53}
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\textsuperscript{54} Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\textsuperscript{55}
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{59}

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA’S CHILDREN

- In 2012, South Dakota spent $55,008,191 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $27,384,036 was from federal funds, $27,624,155 from state funds, and $0 from local funds.\textsuperscript{60}
- In 2012, of the $27,384,036 in federal funds received for child welfare, 34.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 30.9% was from Medicaid, 9.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 14.8% was from TANF, and 5.6% came from other federal sources.\textsuperscript{61}
- South Dakota received $5,177,646 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including $2,382,301 for maintenance payments and $2,795,345 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.\textsuperscript{62}

\textsuperscript{1} “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
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: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

Ibid. 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).

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


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.


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.

Ibid.

Ibid.