WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN 2016

Wisconsin's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	5,757,564	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	18.4%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	1,299,502	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	16.8%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	13.2%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	21.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Wisconsin had 70,906 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,078 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2014, there were 4,642 victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin, a rate of 3.6 per 1,000 children, increasing 2.6% from 2013. Of these children, 62.1% were neglected, 18.7% were physically abused, and 24.3% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 1.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010. 10
- In 2014, there were 18 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Wisconsin.¹¹
- 6,918 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 6,575 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 2,552 aged 5 or younger, and 971 were 16 or older. 12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 5.2% 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 Wisconsin, 43% were white, 33% were black, 11% were Hispanic, 5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 7% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,315 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Wisconsin, 56% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 735 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Wisconsin in 2014, decreasing 8.1% from 800 in 2013.¹⁶
- Of the 6,918 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 1,147 or 16.6% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 27,725 grandparents in Wisconsin had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁸



• 2,215 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 Wisconsin decreased from 64,591 in 2014 to 55,740 in 2015, a 13.7% change. 23,731 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 11.5% from 2014.²⁰
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Wisconsin, 26 received TANF benefits. 21
- \$579,048,807 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Wisconsin, including 26% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 74% on nonassistance.²²
- \$58,154,595 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wisconsin, serving 108,901 participants.²³
- In 2014, Wisconsin distributed \$628,435,812 in child support funds, increasing 1.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 393,000 children in Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin was 5.5%.²⁶
- 11.4% of households in Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 24,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 28,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 34,200 were recepients in 2012.²⁸
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$36,612 at application, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2015, Wisconsin had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2014, Head Start served 14,218 children in Wisconsin, increasing 9.80% from 2013.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 551,807 children in Wisconsin were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 1.7% from 2013.³²
- In 2014, Wisconsin had 183,115 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, increasing 4.5% from 2013, when 175,152 children were enrolled.³³



- In 2014, Wisconsin had 57,611 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,911 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wisconsin in 2014.³⁵
- 416 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin in 2013.³⁶
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Wisconsin was 7.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 33 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 18 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 5,738 adults and adolescents and 37 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.³⁸
- In 2014, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 427,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wisconsin.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 16,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 16,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 353 children in Wisconsin aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.⁴²
- 88% of high school students in Wisconsin graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Wisconsin were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.⁴⁴
- 65,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.⁴⁵
- 43.2% of young adults in Wisconsin ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46
- In 2014, there were 10 reports of children in Wisconsin aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 46 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 40 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin in 2014, compared to 38 in 2013.⁴⁸
- 51,778 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,356 of the arrests in 2014. ⁴⁹



• 816 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin 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 WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Wisconsin spent \$458,294,127 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$170,895,066 was from federal funds, \$196,158,321 from state funds, and \$91,240,740 from local funds.⁶⁰
- In 2012, of the \$170,895,066 in federal funds received for child welfare, 61.5% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10% was from Medicaid, 6.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 14% was from TANF, and 2.9% came from other federal sources.⁶¹
- Wisconsin received \$52,445,186 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$20,138,736 for maintenance payments and \$32,306,450 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.

- 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/.
- 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 percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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- 61 Ibid.
- 62 Ibid.

