ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2017

Arkansas's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,978,204	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	27.2%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴	705,944	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	25.5%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	19.1%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	31.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Arkansas had 52,240 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,251 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 9,204 victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 13.0 per 1,000 children, a an increase 2.6% from 2014. Of these children, 55.3% were neglected, 22% were physically abused, and 20.7% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 17.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 40 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Arkansas¹¹
- 4,548 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 3,732 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,725 aged 5 or younger, and 373 were 16 or older. 12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 21.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.¹³
- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Arkansas, 64% were white, 18% were black, 6% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 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 3,405 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Arkansas, 38% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 740 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Arkansas in 2015, a decrease of 0.4% from 743 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 4,548 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,122 or 24.7% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 39,485 grandparents in Arkansas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 591 of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care. 19

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arkansas decreased from 10,855 in 2015 to 8,501 in 2016, a 27.7% change. There was a 3,825 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 27.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In Arkansas in 2015, 365,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$144,312,179 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Arkansas, including 6.4% on basic assistance, 0.3% on child care, 1.2% on transportation, and 5.0% on nonassistance.²²
- \$44,275,758 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arkansas, serving 84,220 participants.²³
- In 2014, Arkansas distributed \$230,001,139 in child support funds, an increase of 1.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 197,000 children in Arkansas lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Arkansas was 3.9.²⁶
- 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 2015, Arkansas had a monthly average of 7,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 7,800 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, 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 61% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Arkansas had 2,703 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 10,273 children in Arkansas, an increase of 2.3% from 2014. 31
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Arkansas made 20,954 home visits to 4,190 parents and children in 2,199 families, as well as enrolled 2,290 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 364,822 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 11.3% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Arkansas had 112,071 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 10.7% from 2014, when 100,112 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Arkansas had 34,554 uninsured children.³⁴
- 3,564 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arkansas in 2015.³⁵
- 293 infants under age 1 died in Arkansas in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Arkansas was 15.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 72.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 38 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 5,186 adults and adolescents and 38 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 61,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year 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
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Arkansas reached \$205,529,321.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 204 children in Arkansas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015. 42
- 85% of high school students in Arkansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 15,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Arkansas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 50,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 30% of young adults in Arkansas ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in Arkansas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 20 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 36 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2015, compared to 38 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 8,163 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arkansas in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 409 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 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

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

• In 2014, Arkansas's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$15,535,089. The most utilized service in Arkansas was Special Services for the Disabled totaling \$3,374,526.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN

• In 2014, Arkansas spent \$137,876,516 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$82,225,244 was from federal funds and \$55,651,272 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$82,225,244 in federal funds received for child welfare, 71.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3.3% was from Medicaid, 2.9% came from Social Services Block Grant, 11% was from TANF, and 2.4% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Arkansas received \$6,516,334 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$0 for maintenance payments and \$6,516,334 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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 <a href="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.

¹⁵ 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: Table:



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 Ibid.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ 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/.

⁷ Ibid.

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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).

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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. 62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.

