DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA’S CHILDREN 2017

District of Columbia’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Population</td>
<td>672,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18</td>
<td>117,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, District of Columbia had 14,674 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,735 reports were referred for investigation.8
- In 2015, there were 1,348 victims of abuse or neglect in District of Columbia, a rate of 11.4 per 1,000 children, a decrease 11.8% from 2014. Of these children, 84.5% were neglected, 20.2% were physically abused, and 3% were sexually abused.9
- The number of child victims has decreased 43.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.10
- In 2015, there were 3 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in District of Columbia11
- 947 children in District of Columbia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 1,797 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 278 aged 5 or younger, and 307 were 16 or older.12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 47.3% 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 District of Columbia, < .5% were white, 89% were black, 9% were Hispanic, N.R. were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 1-2% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 550 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in District of Columbia, 31% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.15
- 106 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in District of Columbia in 2015, a decrease of 0.9% from 107 in 2014.16
- Of the 947 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 224 or 23.7% waiting to be adopted.17
• In 2015, approximately 6,272 grandparents in District of Columbia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18

• 172 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 District of Columbia decreased from 15,670 in 2015 to 13,634 in 2016, a 14.9% change. There was a 5,472 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 14.1% from 2015.20

• In District of Columbia in 2015, 52,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21

• $262,957,426 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in District of Columbia, including 26.3% on basic assistance, 22.3% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.22

• $7,670,984 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in District of Columbia, serving 14,526 participants.23

• In 2014, District of Columbia distributed $47,357,275 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.6% from 2013.24

• 42,000 children in District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia was 5.8.26

• 13.2% of households in District of Columbia 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, District of Columbia had a monthly average of 1,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 1,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 1,700 were recipients in 2013.28

• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in District of Columbia, a family of three could make no more than $45,775 at application, which is equivalent to 65% of the state’s median income.29

• As of early 2016, District of Columbia had children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

• In 2015, Head Start served 3,306 children in District of Columbia, an increase of 6.0% from 2014.31

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in District of Columbia made 3,367 home visits to 514 parents and children in 273 families, as well as enrolled 351 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 89,210 children in District of Columbia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 2.2% from 2014.32
- In 2015, District of Columbia had 10,676 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 33.6% from 2014, when 7,085 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, District of Columbia had 1,806 uninsured children.34
- 959 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in District of Columbia in 2015.35
- 82 infants under age 1 died in District of Columbia in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in District of Columbia was 18.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 30.5 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 21,252 adults and adolescents and 193 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in District of Columbia.38
- In 2015, an estimated Less than 500 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 25,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in District of Columbia.39
- In 2014, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2014, approximately 1,000 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 District of Columbia reached $62,588,368.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 64 children in District of Columbia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 62% of high school students in District of Columbia graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in District of Columbia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 8,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 72% of young adults in District of Columbia ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46
- In 2015, there were no reports of children in District of Columbia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and less than 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 13 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in District of Columbia in 2015, compared to less than 10 in 2014.48
- 417 children younger than 18 were arrested in District of Columbia in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 67 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 228 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in District of Columbia 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, District of Columbia’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $3,948,294. The most utilized service in District of Columbia was Other Services totaling $2,094,888.60
FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, District of Columbia spent $223,186,331 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $66,297,739 was from federal funds and $156,888,592 was from state and local funds.\(^6\)

- In 2014, of the $66,297,739 in federal funds received for child welfare, 94.0% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1.3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.3% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 4.4% came from other federal sources.\(^5\)

- District of Columbia received $30,885,985 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $7,446,083 for maintenance payments and $23,439,902 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.\(^3\)

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1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
7 Ibid.

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51 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.

62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.