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- ⁴⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015). Crime in the United States 2014: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2014. Retrieved February 8, 2016 from https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/table-69.
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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.
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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.



GEORGIA'S CHILDREN 2017

Georgia's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	10,214,860	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	24.5%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴	2,502,414	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	23.7%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	17.0%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	26.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Georgia had 108,718 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 82,050 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 26,952 victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia, a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 children, a an increase 21.6% from 2014. Of these children, 74.7% were neglected, 10.8% were physically abused, and 3.4% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 45.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 113 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Georgia¹¹
- 10,935 children in Georgia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 7,591 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 3,711 aged 5 or younger, and 1,089 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 44.1% 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 Georgia, 46% were white, 42% were black, 7% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 5-6% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,006 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Georgia, 52% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 912 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Georgia in 2015, an increase of 2.8% from 887 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 10,935 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 2,544 or 23.3% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 112,520 grandparents in Georgia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁸
- 1,695 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 Georgia decreased from 25,853 in 2015 to 24,830 in 2016, a 4.1% change. There was a 12,806 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 4.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In Georgia in 2015, 1,185,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$532,635,617 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Georgia, including 12.0% on basic assistance, 4.1% on child care, 0.7% on transportation, and 1.1% on nonassistance.²²
- \$126,957,333 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Georgia, serving 264,299 participants.²³
- In 2014, Georgia distributed \$658,549,802 in child support funds, an increase of 1.8% from 2013.²⁴
- 876,000 children in Georgia 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 Georgia was 5.4.²⁶
- 15.7% of households in Georgia 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, Georgia had a monthly average of 58,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 61,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 55,000 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Georgia, a family of three could make no more than \$28,160 at application, which is equivalent to 49% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Georgia had children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 25,205 children in Georgia, an increase of 4.0% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Georgia made 9,611 home visits to 1,549 parents and children in 816 families, as well as enrolled 583 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 1,341,668 children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 7.5% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Georgia had 230,815 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 13.5% from 2014, when 261,861 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Georgia had 166,233 uninsured children.³⁴
- 12,464 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Georgia in 2015.³⁵
- 1,024 infants under age 1 died in Georgia in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Georgia was 11.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 47.4 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 48,328 adults and adolescents and 257 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Georgia.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 7,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 221,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Georgia.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 18,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year. 40
- In 2014, approximately 27,000 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 Georgia reached \$447,129,259.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 521 children in Georgia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 72% of high school students in Georgia graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.⁴³
- 55,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Georgia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 178,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 36.5% of young adults in Georgia ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2015, there were 15 reports of children in Georgia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 64 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 135 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2015, compared to 95 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 22,701 children younger than 18 were arrested in Georgia in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,036 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 1,557 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia 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, Georgia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$49,574,938. The most utilized service in Georgia was transportation totaling \$9,301,916.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

• In 2014, Georgia spent \$555,622,633 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$346,757,816 was from federal funds and \$208,864,817 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$346,757,816 in federal funds received for child welfare, 33.0% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.0% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2.0% was from Medicaid, 2.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 56.3% was from TANF, and 0.5% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Georgia received \$74,040,319 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$39,006,382 for maintenance payments and \$35,033,937 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.

¹⁰ 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 3-3: Child Victims*, 2010-2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

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.

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 Age Group, 2013, <1 and 1-5 age groups (Number). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/1889,2616/12988. 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 Age Group, 2013, 16-20 age group (Number). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2619/12988.

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.

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.

⁹ 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 3-3: Child Victims*, 2010-2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.

Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 20045– FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting_foster_care2014.pdf.

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- ¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2005 FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_adopted2014.pdf. Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- ¹⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 FY 2014: Table: Children in Public Foster Care on September 30th of Each Year Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 FY 2014.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_waiting2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

- ¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.
- ¹⁹ 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 Placement Type, 2013, Foster Family Home Relative (Number).* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-type#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/2621/12994.
- ²⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). *Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Recipients.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015.
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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). *Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2014: Table: Total Recipients.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2014.
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Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.

- ²¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2015) A State by State Look at TANF: State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs Do Not Provide Adequate Safety Net for Poor Families: TANF Provides a Safety Net to Few Poor Families: Map TANF-to-poverty ratio: # of families receiving TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children (2013-2014). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.cbpp.org/state-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-programs-do-not-provide-adequate-safety-net-for-poor.
- ²² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). *TANF Financial Data FY 2014: Table B.1.: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Assistance in FY 2014.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2014.
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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

- ²³ USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). *Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program
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- ²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2015). *FY2014 Preliminary Report*. Retrieved February 2, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-report.
- ²⁵ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2014). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race, by State, 2013, Total Race (Number).* Retrieved February 25, 2016 from https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7244-children-living-in-households-with-a-high-housing-cost-burden?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/14287,14288.
- ²⁶ Center for American Progress. (2015). *State of the states report 2015*. Retrieved March 10, 2016 from https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/22120741/2015 states all.pdf.

 ²⁷ Ibid.



- 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.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care (2015). FY 2013 Final 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-2013-final-data-table-1-average-monthly-adjusted-number-of-families-and-children-served. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2014). FY 2012 Final 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-2012-ccdf-data-tables-final-table-1.
- ²⁹ Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2015). *National Women's Law Center, Building blocks, state child care assistance policies 2015*. Retrieved March February 16, 2016 from http://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CC RP Building Blocks Assistance Policies 2015.pdf.

 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-hs-program-factsheet.html.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2014). *Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2013*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2013-hs-program-factsheet.html.

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.

