MARYLAND’S CHILDREN 2017

Maryland’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>6,006,401</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18</td>
<td>1,347,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

• In 2015, Maryland had 51,349 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,623 reports were referred for investigation.\(^8\)

• In 2015, there were 6,790 victims of abuse or neglect in Maryland, a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 children, a decrease 25.5% from 2014. Of these children, 59.7% were neglected, 22.7% were physically abused, and 23.8% were sexually abused.\(^9\)

• The number of child victims has decreased 50.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.\(^10\)

• In 2015, there were 28 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Maryland.\(^11\)

• 3,914 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 5,460 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,295 aged 5 or younger, and 978 were 16 or older.\(^12\)

• The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 28.3% 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 Maryland, 29% were white, 57% were black, 5% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 8% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.\(^14\)

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

• Of the 2,397 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Maryland, 41% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.\(^15\)

• 294 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Maryland in 2015, a decrease of 14.5% from 344 in 2014.\(^16\)

• Of the 3,914 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 508 or 13% waiting to be adopted.\(^17\)
In 2015, approximately 45,048 grandparents in Maryland had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18

1,525 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 Maryland increased from 46,480 in 2015 to 52,738 in 2016, a 11.9% change. There was a 21,240 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 8.9% from 2015.20

In Maryland in 2015, 399,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21

$578,868,809 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Maryland, including 18.5% on basic assistance, 18.6% on child care, 0.9% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.22

$77,373,397 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Maryland, serving 142,841 participants.23

In 2014, Maryland distributed $527,997,612 in child support funds, an increase of 1.8% from 2013.24

481,000 children in Maryland 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 Maryland was 4.2.26

12.5% of households in Maryland 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, Maryland had a monthly average of 17,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 18,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 17,300 were recipients in 2013.28

In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland, a family of three could make no more than $29,990 at application, which is equivalent to 33% of the state’s median income.29

As of early 2016, Maryland had 3,407 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

In 2015, Head Start served 10,426 children in Maryland, an increase of 1.5% from 2014.31

Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Maryland made 16,346 home visits to 2,047 parents and children in 1,175 families, as well as enrolled 869 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 532,090 children in Maryland were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 3.3% from 2014.32

- In 2015, Maryland had 142,327 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 3.6% from 2014, when 137,192 children were enrolled.33

- In 2015, Maryland had 52,267 uninsured children.34

- 6,297 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Maryland in 2015.35

- 490 infants under age 1 died in Maryland in 2015.36

- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Maryland was 8.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 29.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 17 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37

- Cumulative through 2015, there were 39,759 adults and adolescents and 341 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.38

- In 2015, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 187,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Maryland.39

- In 2014, approximately 12,000 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

- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Maryland reached $451,018,165.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 420 children in Maryland aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42

- 85% of high school students in Maryland graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43

- 20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Maryland were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44

- 65,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45

- 46.2% of young adults in Maryland 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 Maryland aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 23 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 44 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Maryland in 2015, compared to 32 in 2014.48
- 15,175 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,427 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 771 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland 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, Maryland’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $29,408,112. The most utilized service in Maryland was Case Management totaling $10,207,369.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MARYLAND’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Maryland spent $542,939,363 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $138,549,734 was from federal funds and $404,389,629 was from state and local funds.61
• In 2014, of the $138,549,734 in federal funds received for child welfare, 59.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 14.4% was from Medicaid, 12.5% came from Social Services Block Grant, 7.4% was from TANF, and 0.6% came from other federal sources.  

• Maryland received $53,361,149 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $29,063,325 for maintenance payments and $24,297,824 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.  

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


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.


Ibid.


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 agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

Ibid.

Ibid.