RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN 2017

Rhode Island's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	1,056,298	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	19.4%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴		Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	19.4%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	13.9%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	19.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Rhode Island had 13,045 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,649 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 3,183 victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island, a rate of 15.1 per 1,000 children, a a decrease 6.7% from 2014. Of these children, 56.7% were neglected, 13.1% were physically abused, and 4.0% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 1.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 0 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Rhode Island¹¹
- 1,826 children in Rhode Island lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 1,806 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 700 aged 5 or younger, and 379 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.1% 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 Rhode Island, 46% were white, 16% were black, 27% were Hispanic, 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 10% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,180 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Rhode Island, 53% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 211 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Rhode Island in 2015, an increase of 4.5% from 202 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 1,826 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 303 or 16.6% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 6,219 grandparents in Rhode Island had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 636 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 Rhode Island decreased from 11,675 in 2015 to 9,542 in 2016, a 22.4% change. There was a 4,047 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 21.4% from 2015. ²⁰
- In Rhode Island in 2015, 80,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$148,105,573 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Rhode Island, including 12.1% on basic assistance, 10.4% on child care, 0.8% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.²²
- \$11,001,633 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Rhode Island, serving 20,728 participants.²³
- In 2014, Rhode Island distributed \$71,235,761 in child support funds, an increase of 2.9% from 2013.²⁴
- 90,000 children in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island was 5.0.²⁶
- 12.7% of households in Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island had a monthly average of 6,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 5,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 5,600 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Rhode Island, a family of three could make no more than \$36,162 at application, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Rhode Island had children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 2,893 children in Rhode Island, an increase of 2.8% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Rhode Island made 11,740 home visits to 2,212 parents and children in 1,184 families, as well as enrolled 1,386 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 99,712 children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 1.0% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Rhode Island had 31,324 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 29.3% from 2014, when 22,136 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Rhode Island had 7,260 uninsured children.³⁴
- 833 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Rhode Island in 2015.³⁵
- 62 infants under age 1 died in Rhode Island in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Rhode Island was 7.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 21.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 14 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 3,304 adults and adolescents and 35 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 35,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Rhode Island.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year. 40
- In 2014, approximately 3,000 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 Rhode Island reached \$108,354,005.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 155 children in Rhode Island aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015. 42
- 80% of high school students in Rhode Island graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 4,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 12,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 43.8% of young adults in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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

- less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Rhode Island in 2015, compared to less than 10 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 2,373 children younger than 18 were arrested in Rhode Island in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 94 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 159 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island in 2013.

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, Rhode Island's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$4,912,802. The most utilized service in Rhode Island was Residential Treatment totaling \$1,171,936.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN

In 2014, Rhode Island spent \$189,740,218 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$61,284,545 was from federal funds and \$128,455,673 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$61,284,545 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 36.0% was from Medicaid, 2.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15.3% was from TANF, and 7.8% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Rhode Island received \$13,469,470 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$4,272,703 for maintenance payments and \$9,196,767 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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.

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.

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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.

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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

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 $^{^7}$ 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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²⁷ Ibid.

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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: 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.

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63 Ibid.

