TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN 2017

Tennessee's Children at a Glance¹

| State Population ² | 6,600,299 | Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³ | 24.2% |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|-------|
| | | Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵ | 22.8% |
| State Poverty Rate ⁶ | 16.7% | Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷ | 28.0% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Tennessee had 114,914 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 74,669 reports were referred
 for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 11,362 victims of abuse or neglect in Tennessee, a rate of 7.6 per 1,000 children, a a decrease 2.8% from 2014. Of these children, 67.5% were neglected, 12.7% were physically abused, and 23.6% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 22.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 32 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Tennessee¹¹
- 7,780 children in Tennessee lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 7,647 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 2,408 aged 5 or younger, and 1,740 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.7% 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 Tennessee, 67% were white, 21% were black, 6% 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 5,689 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Tennessee, 50% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,113 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Tennessee in 2015, a decrease of 4.1% from 1,161 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 7,780 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 2,756 or 35.4% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 79,518 grandparents in Tennessee had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 782 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 Tennessee decreased from 87,101 in 2015 to 68,975 in 2016, a 26.6% change. There was a 30,769 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 23.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In Tennessee in 2015, 722,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$246,544,840 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Tennessee, including 31.6% on basic assistance, 33.5% on child care, 0.8% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.²²
- \$68,867,927 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Tennessee, serving 150,116 participants.²³
- In 2014, Tennessee distributed \$593,728,173 in child support funds, an increase of 2.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 489,000 children in Tennessee 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 Tennessee was 4.9.²⁶
- 16.3% of households in Tennessee 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, Tennessee had a monthly average of 25,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 32,900 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 38,800 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Tennessee, a family of three could make no more than \$32,268 at application, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Tennessee had children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 17,750 children in Tennessee, an increase of 5.1% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Tennessee made 20,633 home visits to 2,893 parents and children in 1,490 families, as well as enrolled 1,463 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 819,456 children in Tennessee were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 5.4% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Tennessee had 106,215 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 6.2% from 2014, when 112,826 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Tennessee had 62,104 uninsured children.³⁴
- 7,460 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Tennessee in 2015.³⁵
- 570 infants under age 1 died in Tennessee in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Tennessee was 12.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 58.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 31 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 17,192 adults and adolescents and 71 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Tennessee.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 144,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Tennessee.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 15,000 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 Tennessee reached \$422,584,957.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 519 children in Tennessee aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015. 42
- 86% of high school students in Tennessee graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.⁴³
- 24,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Tennessee were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 95,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 35.1% of young adults in Tennessee 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 Tennessee aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 39 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 92 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Tennessee in 2015, compared to 71 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 24,113 children younger than 18 were arrested in Tennessee in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,596 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 666 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Tennessee 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, Tennessee's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$30,167,609. The most utilized service in Tennessee was Case Management totaling \$7,163,396.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

In 2014, Tennessee spent \$680,267,700 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$309,990,900 was from federal funds and \$370,276,800 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$309,990,900 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28.8% 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, 58.4% was from Medicaid, 7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 0.7% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Tennessee received \$45,636,200 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$29,095,300 for maintenance payments and \$16,540,900 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.

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National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2013 (Percent). Retrieved February

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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: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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- 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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- ⁶¹ DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M., & Cooper, H. (2014). Federal, State, and Local spending to address child abuse and neglect in SFY 2012: Appendix A:SFY 2012 State-by-State Data. 2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey. Washington, DC. Retrieved February 26, 2016 from http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf.
- 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.

