WISCONSIN’S CHILDREN 2017

Wisconsin’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Population</td>
<td>5,771,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18</td>
<td>1,292,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Wisconsin had 77,502 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,647 reports were referred for investigation.

- In 2015, there were 4,840 victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin, a rate of 3.7 per 1,000 children, an increase 4.3% from 2014. Of these children, 63.9% were neglected, 17.6% were physically abused, and 22.6% were sexually abused.

- The number of child victims has increased 1.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.

- In 2015, there were 17 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Wisconsin.

- 7,091 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 6,547 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 2,836 aged 5 or younger, and 968 were 16 or older.

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 8.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin, 44% were white, 32% were black, 10% were Hispanic, 5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 7% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,241 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Wisconsin, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.

- 643 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Wisconsin in 2015, a decrease of 12.5% from 735 in 2014.

- Of the 7,091 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,267 or 17.9% waiting to be adopted.
• In 2015, approximately 26,083 grandparents in Wisconsin had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸

• 2,335 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 Wisconsin decreased from 53,771 in 2015 to 41,243 in 2016, a 30.4% change. There was a 18,669 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 23.7% from 2015.²⁰

• In Wisconsin in 2015, 469,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹

• $505,375,221 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Wisconsin, including 20.6% on basic assistance, 19.2% on child care, 0.5% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.²²

• $56,634,149 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wisconsin, serving 105,504 participants.²³

• In 2014, Wisconsin distributed $628,435,812 in child support funds, an increase of 1.3% from 2013.²⁴

• 380,000 children in Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin was 4.0.²⁶

• 11.4% of households in Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 27,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 24,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 28,800 were recipients in 2013.²⁸

• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than $37,164 at application, which is equivalent to 54% of the state’s median income.²⁹

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

• In 2015, Head Start served 14,557 children in Wisconsin, an increase of 2.3% from 2014.³¹

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Wisconsin made 20,758 home visits to 2,682 parents and children in 1,405 families, as well as enrolled 1,318 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 546,579 children in Wisconsin were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 1% from 2014.32
- In 2015, Wisconsin had 168,576 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 8.6% from 2014, when 183,115 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, Wisconsin had 46,228 uninsured children.34
- 4,870 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wisconsin in 2015.35
- 386 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Wisconsin was 6.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 30.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 16 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 5,898 adults and adolescents and 39 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.38

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 315 children in Wisconsin aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 88% of high school students in Wisconsin graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 14,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Wisconsin were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 54,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 43.2% of young adults in Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 44 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin in 2015, compared to 40 in 2014.48

- 43,693 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,146 of the arrests in 2015.49

- 816 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin in 2013.50

**CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE**51

- 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, Wisconsin’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $28,617,681. The most utilized service in Wisconsin was Other Services totaling $5,890,807.60

**FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WISCONSIN’S CHILDREN**

- In 2014, Wisconsin spent $444,821,878 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $148,072,612 was from federal funds and $269,749,266 was from state and local funds.61
• In 2014, of the $148,072,612 in federal funds received for child welfare, 75.0% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1.3% was from Medicaid, 7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 3.1% was from TANF, and 7.2% came from other federal sources.62

• Wisconsin received $56,937,627 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $17,800,107 for maintenance payments and $39,137,520 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.63

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
7 Ibid.
11 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
20 Ibid.
21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
25 Ibid.
26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
30 Ibid.
31 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 Ibid.
39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Ibid.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
56 Ibid.
57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
59 Ibid.
60 Ibid.
61 Ibid.
62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.


Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.


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.

References:


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.