ILLINOIS’S CHILDREN 2017

Illinois’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>12,859,995</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18</td>
<td>2,960,185</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Illinois had 66,866 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 66,866 reports were referred for investigation.  

- In 2015, there were 29,993 victims of abuse or neglect in Illinois, a rate of 10.1 per 1,000 children, an increase 17.2% from 2014. Of these children, 69.9% were neglected, 21.7% were physically abused, and 15% were sexually abused.  

- The number of child victims has increased 84.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.  

- In 2015, there were 77 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Illinois.  

- 16,654 children in Illinois lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 17,189 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 6,374 aged 5 or younger, and 3,759 were 16 or older.  

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 3.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.  

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Illinois, 39% were white, 51% were black, 7% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 3-4% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.  

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,964 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Illinois, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.  

- 1,788 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Illinois in 2015, an increase of 10.6% from 1,616 in 2014.  

- Of the 16,654 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 2,806 or 16.8% waiting to be adopted.
In 2015, approximately 77,097 grandparents in Illinois had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\(^{18}\)

6,172 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 Illinois decreased from 41,886 in 2015 to 34,881 in 2016, a 20.1% change. There was a 15,690 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 18.8% from 2015.\(^{20}\)

In Illinois in 2015, 1,148,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.\(^{21}\)

$1,373,616,777 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Illinois, including 5.0% on basic assistance, 66.5% on child care, 0.3% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.\(^{22}\)

$143,934,564 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Illinois, serving 247,594 participants.\(^{23}\)

In 2014, Illinois distributed $805,081,568 in child support funds, a decrease of 0.1% from 2013.\(^{24}\)

1,027,000 children in Illinois 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 Illinois was 5.7.\(^{26}\)

11.7% of households in Illinois 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, Illinois had a monthly average of 46,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 54,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 53,200 were recipients in 2013.\(^{28}\)

In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Illinois, a family of three could make no more than $32,544 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state’s median income.\(^{29}\)

As of early 2016, Illinois had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\(^{30}\)

In 2015, Head Start served 41,188 children in Illinois, an increase of 0.7% from 2014.\(^{31}\)

Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Illinois made 13,195 home visits to 1,887 parents and children in 975 families, as well as enrolled 898 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 1,540,694 children in Illinois were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 5% from 2014.32
- In 2015, Illinois had 330,571 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 10.5% from 2014, when 295,948 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, Illinois had 75,272 uninsured children.34
- 13,069 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Illinois in 2015.35
- 953 infants under age 1 died in Illinois in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Illinois was 9.7 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 38.5 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 21 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 42,840 adults and adolescents and 284 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Illinois.38
- In 2015, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 329,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Illinois.39
- In 2014, approximately 23,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2014, approximately 35,000 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 Illinois reached $887,402,938.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 83% of high school students in Illinois graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 43,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Illinois were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 164,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 46.5% of young adults in Illinois ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46
- In 2015, there were 20 reports of children in Illinois aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 77 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 144 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Illinois in 2015, compared to 190 in 2014.48
- 13,627 children younger than 18 were arrested in Illinois in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,118 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 1,617 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois 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, Illinois’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $63,932,779. The most utilized service in Illinois was Home-Based Services totaling $27,142,110.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ILLINOIS’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Illinois spent $1,126,526,078 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $642,229,333 was from federal funds and $484,296,745 was from state and local funds.61
- In 2014, of the $642,229,333 in federal funds received for child welfare, 45.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.6% 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, 43.1% was from TANF, and 3.6% came from other federal sources.52

- Illinois received $171,920,001 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $70,368,579 for maintenance payments and $101,551,422 for administration, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.63

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

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.


Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.
16. Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


