NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2017

North Dakota's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	756,928	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	12.1%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴	171,314	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	10.9%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	11.0%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	14.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, North Dakota had 3,790 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3,790 reports were referred
 for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 1,760 victims of abuse or neglect in North Dakota, a rate of 10.1 per 1,000 children, a an increase 9.2% from 2014. Of these children, 74.6% were neglected, 12.1% were physically abused, and 3.7% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 35.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011. 10
- In 2015, there were 3 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in North Dakota¹¹
- 1,359 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 1,066 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 493 aged 5 or younger, and 236 were 16 or older. 12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 27.5% 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 North Dakota, 47% were white, 4% were black, 6% were Hispanic, 31% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 12% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 813 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in North Dakota, 56% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 133 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in North Dakota in 2015, an increase of 38.5% from 96 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 1,359 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 296 or 21.8% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 3,273 grandparents in North Dakota had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 177 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 North Dakota decreased from 2,917 in 2015 to 2,707 in 2016, a 7.8% change. There was a 1,105 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 6.4% from 2015.²⁰
- In North Dakota in 2015, 46,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$38,611,947 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in North Dakota, including 12.3% on basic assistance, 2.9% on child care, 2.7% on transportation, and 9.5% on nonassistance.²²
- \$7,005,060 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in North Dakota, serving 12,415 participants.²³
- In 2014, North Dakota distributed \$95,110,175 in child support funds, an increase of 3.1% from 2013.²⁴
- 29,000 children in North Dakota 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 North Dakota was 3.0.²⁶
- 8.4% of households in North Dakota 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, North Dakota had a monthly average of 2,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 2,200 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$63,348 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 2,442 children in North Dakota, an increase of 2.6% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in North Dakota made 1,746 home visits to 375 parents and children in 216 families, as well as enrolled 297 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 61,525 children in North Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 12.1% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, North Dakota had 4,955 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 1.6% from 2014, when 5,032 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, North Dakota had 13,430 uninsured children.³⁴
- 700 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in North Dakota in 2015.³⁵
- 81 infants under age 1 died in North Dakota in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in North Dakota was 10.0 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 36.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 22 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 212 adults and adolescents and 2 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated Less than 500 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 18,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in North Dakota.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 1,000 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 North Dakota reached \$33,219,499.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 67 children in North Dakota aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015. 42
- 88% of high school students in North Dakota graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in North Dakota were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 8,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 49.8% of young adults in North Dakota ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in North Dakota 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 North Dakota in 2015, compared to less than 10 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 3,659 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 58 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 171 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota 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, North Dakota's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$3,496,392. The most utilized service in North Dakota was Counseling Services totaling \$3,496,392.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

• In 2014, North Dakota spent \$69,376,190 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$41,271,545 was from federal funds and \$28,104,645 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$41,271,545 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 4.8% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 45.2% was from TANF, and 3.3% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- North Dakota received \$12,031,072 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$5,604,141 for maintenance payments and \$6,426,931 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.

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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.

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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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.

15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families,



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.

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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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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