VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2017

Vermont's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	626,042	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	13.3%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴	120,160	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	12.5%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	10.2%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	15.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Vermont had 18,724 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,676 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 921 victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont, a rate of 7.7 per 1,000 children, a an increase 13.3% from 2014. Of these children, 2.4% were neglected, 47.9% were physically abused, and 51.5% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 46.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 3 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Vermont¹¹
- 1,332 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 1,010 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 393 aged 5 or younger, and 253 were 16 or older. 12
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 31.9% 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 Vermont, 95% were white, 2% were black, 1% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 1-2% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity. 14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 600 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Vermont, 46% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 189 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Vermont in 2015, an increase of 15.2% from 164 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 1,332 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 304 or 22.8% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 3,047 grandparents in Vermont had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 372 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 Vermont decreased from 5,969 in 2015 to 5,622 in 2016, a 6.2% change. There was a 2,662 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 5.0% from 2015.²⁰
- In Vermont in 2015, 40,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$83,230,963 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Vermont, including 18.2% on basic assistance, 24.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 3.5% on nonassistance.²²
- \$8,745,051 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Vermont, serving 13,733 participants.²³
- In 2014, Vermont distributed \$45,135,618 in child support funds, an increase of 0.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 39,000 children in Vermont 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 Vermont was 3.1.²⁶
- 12.6% of households in Vermont 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, Vermont had a monthly average of 4,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 4,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 4,400 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than \$39,576 at application, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Vermont had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 1,503 children in Vermont, an increase of 3.7% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Vermont made 4,111 home visits to `568 parents and children in 328 families, as well as enrolled 301 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 74,718 children in Vermont were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 1.6% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Vermont had 4,766 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 24.9% from 2014, when 5,953 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Vermont had 1,251 uninsured children.³⁴
- 390 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Vermont in 2015.35
- 27 infants under age 1 died in Vermont in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Vermont was 3.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 19.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 12 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 560 adults and adolescents and 6 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Vermont.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated Less than 500 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 24,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Vermont.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 1,000 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 Vermont reached \$38,109,065.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 66 children in Vermont aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 87% of high school students in Vermont graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.⁴³
- 1,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Vermont were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 5,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 47% of young adults in Vermont ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2015, there were no reports of children in Vermont 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 Vermont in 2015, compared to less than 10 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 614 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 36 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 27 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermontin 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, Vermont's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$3,226,000. The most utilized service in Vermont was Case Management totaling \$547,482.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT'S CHILDREN

 In 2014, Vermont spent \$71,142,576 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$51,804,232 was from federal funds and \$19,338,344 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$51,804,232 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.3% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 43.7% was from Medicaid, 9.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 5.7% was from TANF, and 2.7% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Vermont received \$8,982,703 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$5,269,462 for maintenance payments and \$3,713,241 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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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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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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 62 Ibid.
- 63 Ibid.

