

# COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2015

## Colorado's Children At a Glance<sup>1</sup>

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	5,268,367	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	16.9%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	1,241,325	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	15.8%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	13.0%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	18.4%

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2013, Colorado had 79,703 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,999 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2013, 10,161 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado, a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.2% decrease from 2012. Of these children, 82.7% were neglected, 11.9% were physically abused, and 10.4% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 10.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2009.<sup>10</sup>
- Colorado responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 7,437 reports were responded to in this way in 2013.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2013, 21 children in Colorado died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2013, 5,851 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,392 children in 2009. In 2012, 1,530 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,276 were 16 or older.<sup>13</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 20.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2009.<sup>14</sup>
- Of Colorado children in out-of-home care in 2013, 45.1% were white, 10.5% black, 37.1% Hispanic, 0.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 6.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>15</sup>

### ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,181 children exiting out-of-home care in Colorado in 2012, 47% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2013, 782 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 13.6% decrease from 905 in 2012.<sup>17</sup>
- Of the 5,851 children in out-of-home care in 2013, 896 or 15.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 35,383 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>19</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2012, 922 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>20</sup>

### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado increased from 39,502 in 2013 to 45,018 in 2014, an increase of 14.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2014 was 17,098, a 13.1% increase from 2013.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2012-2013, for every 100 Colorado families living in poverty, only 21 received TANF benefits.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2013, \$313,500,215 was spent in Colorado on TANF assistance, including 23% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 76% on nonassistance.<sup>23</sup>



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- In 2013, \$47,100,147 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Colorado, serving 97,044 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2013, Colorado distributed \$300,914,154 in child support funds, a 2.6% increase from 2012.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2013 in Colorado, 418,000 children lived in households with a high housing burden, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>26</sup>

## **CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2013, Colorado had a monthly average of 15,900 children served by subsidized child care; 15,800 children received subsidized child care in 2012 and 16,900 in 2011.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Colorado, a family of three could make no more than \$26,389-\$60,284, which is equivalent to 36%-85% of the state's median income.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2014, Colorado had children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2013, Head Start served 10,259 Colorado children, a 3.4% decrease from 2012.<sup>30</sup>

## **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- In 2014, 435,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado—69% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2012, Colorado had 126,169 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 19.9% increase from 2011, when 105,255 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2013, Colorado had 102,149 uninsured children.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2012, 5,749 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Colorado.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2011, 362 infants under age 1 died in Colorado.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2012, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Colorado was 12 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 44. This reflects a total rate of 25 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>36</sup>
- Cumulative through 2013, 10,737 adults and adolescents, as well as 33 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2013, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17 and 328,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Colorado.<sup>38</sup>

## **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- In 2011, 527 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Colorado.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2013, 17,000 Colorado teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2013, 64,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 in Colorado needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 12,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2013, 60 Colorado children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.35 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2013, 37 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Colorado, a 37.0% increase from 27 in 2012.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2013, 26,158 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 1% decrease from 26,333 arrests in 2012. Of the arrests in 2013, 539 were for violent crimes.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2013, 1,254 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.<sup>47</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>48</sup>

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children. In Children's Rights 2009, A Long Road Home report, similar challenges to the child welfare caseworkers were identified, in addition to no standard training or consistent background requirements, need for meaningful supervision, and lack of private workspace, technology and other resources.<sup>49</sup>
- 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.<sup>50</sup>
- According to the 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.<sup>51</sup>
- The National Association of Social Workers 2012 Document to the Obama Administration called for full funding of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), protection of the Social Security Block Grant (SSBG) from budget cuts and elimination, a variety of child maltreatment prevention services to be available through programs serving children and families (e.g., TANF, Head Start, etc.), maximization of collaboration amongst different systems (e.g., Child Welfare, Public Health, Juvenile Justice, etc.) to improve integration, culturally and linguistically appropriate delivery of services, identification and implementation of evidence-based practices, and incentivization of BSW and MSW students to join the child welfare workforce.<sup>52</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Colorado spent \$419,715,208 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$147,797,253 was from federal funds, \$78,830,240 from state funds, and \$193,087,715 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2012, of the \$147,797,253 in federal funds received for child welfare, 52.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3.8% was from Medicaid, 16.0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15.9% was from TANF, and 6.3% came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Colorado received \$54,409,121 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$13,427,051 for maintenance payments and \$40,982,070 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>55</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> “At A Glance” statistics are from 2013.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2015). *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved February 9, 2015 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2015). *Child Maltreatment 2013: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2013*. Retrieved February 13, 2015 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2013.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2015). *Child Maltreatment 2013: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2013*. Retrieved February 13, 2015 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2013.pdf>.

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Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation.

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

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<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2014). *Race/Ethnicity of Public Agency Children Adopted: 10/1/2012 – 9/30/2013: Table: Race/Ethnicity of Public Agency Children Adopted: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013 (FY 2013)*. Retrieved February 20, 2015. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/race2013.pdf>.

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<sup>38</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015). *Estimated Totals by State of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2012-2013 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Estimated Totals (in Thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 20: Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2012 and 2013 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 18, 2015 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2013/NSDUHsaeTotals2013.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2014). *Child Trends, The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children Exiting Foster Care by Exit Reason, by State, 2012, Emancipation (Number)*. Retrieved April 2, 2015 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6277-children-exiting-foster-care-by-exit-reason#detailed/2/2-52/true/868/2632/13050>.

<sup>40</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2014). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2013 American Community Survey: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Teens ages 16 to 19 Not in School and Not Working, by State, 2013 (Number)*. Retrieved March 18, 2015 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8100-teens-16-to-19-not-in-school-and-not-working#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/any/15550>.

<sup>41</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2013 American Community Survey: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Persons Age 18 to 24 Not Attending School, Not Working, and No Degree Beyond High School, by State, 2013 (Number)*. Retrieved March 18, 2015 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5063-persons-age-18-to-24-not-attending-school-not-working-and-no-degree-beyond-high-school#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/any/11484>.

<sup>42</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015). *Estimated Totals by State of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2012-2013 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Estimated Totals (in Thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 21: Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2012 and 2013 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 18, 2015 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2013/NSDUHsaeTotals2013.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2015). *Estimated Totals by State of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2012-2013 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Estimated Totals (in Thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 22: Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Alcohol Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2012 and 2013 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 18, 2015 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeTotals2013/NSDUHsaeTotals2013.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (2015). *NCHS Vital Statistics System for numbers of deaths: Bureau of Census for population estimates. Fatal Injury Reports 1999-2013, for National, Regional and States (RESTRICTED), 2013, United States, Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19, Outgroup: State*. Retrieved March 31, 2015 from [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html).

<sup>45</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (2015). *NCHS Vital*

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2014). *Crime in the United States 2013: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2013.* Retrieved March 24, 2015 from [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-69/table\\_69\\_arrest\\_by\\_state\\_2013.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/tables/table-69/table_69_arrest_by_state_2013.xls).

U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2013). *Crime in the United States 2012: Table 69: Arrests by States, 2012.* Retrieved March 24, 2015 from <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/69tabledatadecpdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>47</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzanchera, C. (2013). *OJJDP's Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement:1997-2011: Table: Type of Placement Facility by State, 2011 (Count).* Retrieved March 24, 2015 from [http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/State\\_Facility.asp](http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp/asp/State_Facility.asp).

<sup>48</sup> 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.

<sup>49</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff.* Retrieved January 19, 2012 from [www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf).

National Association of Social Workers. (2012). *2012 Document to the Obama Administration, Building on Progressive Priorities: Sustaining Our Nation's Safety Net.* Retrieved March 31, 2015 from [http://www.naswdc.org/advocacy/documents/nasw-2012-building\\_progressive\\_priorities.pdf](http://www.naswdc.org/advocacy/documents/nasw-2012-building_progressive_priorities.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff.* Retrieved January 19, 2012 from [www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Children's Rights.(2009).*The Long Road Home: A Study of Children Stranded in New York City Foster Care.* Retrieved March 31, 2015 from [http://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2009-11-02\\_long\\_road\\_home\\_full\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.childrensrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/2009-11-02_long_road_home_full_report_final.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2014). *Child Trends: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 April 2, 2015 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. Current information is also needed in regards to state and local spending on child welfare programs. Particularly, in light of financing reform efforts, it would be helpful to know how state and local budgets have changed in the wake of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) investments and the ongoing effects of the recession.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2014). *Child Trends:Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2012: Appendix B:SFY 2012 State-by-State Data.2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey.* Washington, DC. Retrieved April 2, 2015 from <http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf>.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.