

# NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN 2015

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

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	8,899,339	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	16.7%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	2,021,897	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	15.4%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	11.4%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	19.4%

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2013, New Jersey had 59,151 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 59,151 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2013, 9,490 children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey, a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.8% increase from 2012. Of these children, 85.8% were neglected, 14.0% were physically abused, and 9.0% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 8.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2009.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2013, 18 children in New Jersey died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2013, 6,946 children in New Jersey lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,803 children in 2009. In 2012, 3,393 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 758 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 11.0% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2009.<sup>13</sup>
- Of New Jersey children in out-of-home care in 2013, 28.5% were white, 42.0% black, 21.3% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander and 5.6% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

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

- Of the 4,767 children exiting out-of-home care in New Jersey in 2012, 55% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2013, 927 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Jersey, a 9.4% decrease from 1,023 in 2012.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 6,946 children in out-of-home care in 2013, 2,443 or 35.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 54,912 New Jersey grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2012, 2,322 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Jersey decreased from 7,522 in 2013 to 6,567 in 2014, a decrease of 12.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2014 was 3,171, a 10.1% decrease from 2013.<sup>20</sup>
- From 2012-2013, for every 100 New Jersey families living in poverty, only 27 received TANF benefits.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2013, \$1,211,368,529 was spent in New Jersey on TANF assistance, including 25% on basic assistance, 1% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 73% on nonassistance.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2013, \$107,731,536 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)



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in New Jersey, serving 166,569 participants.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2013, New Jersey distributed \$1,140,851,723 in child support funds, a 0.8% increase from 2012.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2013 in New Jersey, 891,000 children lived in households with a high housing burden, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>25</sup>

### **CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2013, New Jersey had a monthly average of 41,000 children served by subsidized child care; 31,400 children received subsidized child care in 2012 and 36,300 in 2011.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Jersey, a family of three could make no more than \$39,060, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2013, Head Start served 14,701 New Jersey children, a 6.1% decrease from 2012.<sup>28</sup>

### **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- In 2014, 558,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Jersey—83% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2012, New Jersey had 201,417 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.6% increase from 2011, when 198,283 children were enrolled.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2013, New Jersey had 112,117 uninsured children.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2012, 8,534 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Jersey.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, 538 infants under age 1 died in New Jersey.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2012, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New Jersey was 8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 31. This reflects a total rate of 17 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2013, 57,436 adults and adolescents, as well as 800 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Jersey.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2013, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17 and 444,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Jersey.<sup>36</sup>

### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- In 2011, 413 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in New Jersey.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2013, 30,000 New Jersey teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2013, 104,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 21,000 children ages 12–17 in New Jersey needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2013, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2013, 30 New Jersey children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.33 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- In 2013, 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey, a 2.1% decrease from 47 in 2012.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2013, 21,459 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Jersey, a 20% decrease from 26,688 arrests in 2012. Of



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the arrests in 2013, 1,748 were for violent crimes.<sup>44</sup>

- In 2013, 1,005 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Jersey.<sup>45</sup>

## **CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>46</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>47</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>48</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>49</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>50</sup>

## **FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN**

- In 2012, New Jersey spent \$962,082,727 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$308,897,721 was from federal funds, \$653,185,006 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>51</sup>
- In 2012, of the \$308,897,721 in federal funds received for child welfare, 47.0% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 33.2% was from Medicaid, 9.8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 4.0% was from TANF, and 2.4% came from other federal sources.<sup>52</sup>
- New Jersey received \$84,540,618 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$26,717,211 for maintenance payments and \$57,823,407 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>53</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.

<sup>10</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>.

<sup>11</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 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2009-2013*. Retrieved February 20, 2015 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2013.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2014). *FY 2004 – FY 2013 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 2004–FY 2013*. Retrieved February 20, 2015. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children\\_in\\_care\\_2013.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_in_care_2013.pdf).

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

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2014). *FY 2004 – FY 2013 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2004–FY 2013*. Retrieved February 20, 2015. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children\\_in\\_care\\_2013.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_in_care_2013.pdf).

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>14</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>.

<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). *FY 2004 – FY 2013 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table: Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 2004 – FY 2013*. Retrieved February 23, 2015. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting\\_foster\\_care2013.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting_foster_care2013.pdf).

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<sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2014). *Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2004 – FY 2013*. Retrieved February 23, 2013. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/prior\\_relation2013.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/prior_relation2013.pdf).

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- <sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2013*. Retrieved February 27, 2015 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.
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<sup>39</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>40</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>41</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>42</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>43</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), 2012-2013, United States, Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19, Outgroups:Year and 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).

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>44</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).

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>45</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, 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>46</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>47</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>48</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>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</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>51</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>52</sup> Ibid.

<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 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.