Florida’s Children at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>20,271,272</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, Children Under 18</td>
<td>4,102,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Poverty Rate</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 18</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate, Children Under 5</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Florida had 217,895 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 160,733 reports were referred for investigation.

- In 2015, there were 43,775 victims of abuse or neglect in Florida, a rate of 10.7 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 4.3% from 2014. Of these children, 54.3% were neglected, 9.7% were physically abused, and 5.7% were sexually abused.

- The number of child victims has decreased 15.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.

- In 2015, there were 124 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Florida.

- 22,364 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 19,760 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 9,558 aged 5 or younger, and 1,872 were 16 or older.

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 13.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Florida, 45% were white, 34% were black, 16% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 6-7% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 13,533 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Florida, 47% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.

- 3,431 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Florida in 2015, an increase of 5.0% from 3,267 in 2014.

- Of the 22,364 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 5,945 or 26.6% waiting to be adopted.
In 2015, approximately 145,420 grandparents in Florida had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\textsuperscript{18}

8,526 of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care.\textsuperscript{19}

**CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT**

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Florida decreased from 84,148 in 2015 to 79,040 in 2016, a 6.5% change. There was a 47,592 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 3.1% from 2015.\textsuperscript{20}

- In Florida in 2015, 1,980,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.\textsuperscript{21}

- $823,107,551 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Florida, including 17.9% on basic assistance, 22.1% on child care, 0.3% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.\textsuperscript{22}

- $244,855,118 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Florida, serving 483,811 participants.\textsuperscript{23}

- In 2014, Florida distributed $1,450,639,777 in child support funds, a decrease of 2.6% from 2013.\textsuperscript{24}

- 1,672,000 children in Florida lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.\textsuperscript{25}

- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Florida was 4.9.\textsuperscript{26}

- 13.8% of households in Florida 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.\textsuperscript{27}

**CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2015, Florida had a monthly average of 82,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 90,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 84,700 were recipients in 2013.\textsuperscript{28}

- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than $30,240 at application, which is equivalent to 55% of the state’s median income.\textsuperscript{29}

- As of early 2016, Florida had 25,774 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\textsuperscript{30}

- In 2015, Head Start served 39,668 children in Florida, an increase of 5.2% from 2014.\textsuperscript{31}

- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Florida made 15,975 home visits to 2,742 parents and children in 1,518 families, as well as enrolled 1,581 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 2,264,344 children in Florida were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 1% from 2014.32
- In 2015, Florida had 428,094 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 1.1% from 2014, when 423,351 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, Florida had 283,806 uninsured children.34
- 19,306 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Florida in 2015.35
- 1,400 infants under age 1 died in Florida in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Florida was 8.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 39.7 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 133,522 adults and adolescents and 1,567 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Florida.38
- In 2015, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 469,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Florida.39
- In 2014, approximately 38,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2014, approximately 56,000 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 Florida reached $1,246,526,068.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 946 children in Florida aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 76% of high school students in Florida graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 73,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Florida were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 255,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 37.8% of young adults in Florida 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 Florida aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 96 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 158 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Florida in 2015, compared to 176 in 2014.48
- 62,148 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 4,256 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 2,802 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Florida 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, Florida’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $98,614,023. The most utilized service in Florida was Special Services for Youth at Risk totaling $45,574,661.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Florida spent $1,092,725,805 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $572,399,019 was from federal funds and $520,326,786 was from state and local funds.61
In 2014, of the $572,399,019 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.2% was from Medicaid, 13.1% came from Social Services Block Grant, 28.6% was from TANF, and 2.5% came from other federal sources.62

Florida received $3,655,366 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $0 for maintenance payments and $3,655,366 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.63

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.

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


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.


Ibid.


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