**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

- In 2015, Minnesota had 76,785 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,262 reports were referred for investigation.\(^8\)

- In 2015, there were 5,120 victims of abuse or neglect in Minnesota, a rate of 4.0 per 1,000 children, a an increase 23.6% from 2014. Of these children, 68.1% were neglected, 22.7% were physically abused, and 18.2% were sexually abused.\(^9\)

- The number of child victims has increased 17.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.\(^10\)

- In 2015, there were 17 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Minnesota\(^11\)

- 7,610 children in Minnesota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 5,085 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 2,257 aged 5 or younger, and 1,070 were 16 or older.\(^12\)

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 49.7% 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 Minnesota, 38% were white, 15% were black, 8% were Hispanic, 24% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 13% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.\(^14\)

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

- Of the 5,240 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Minnesota, 64% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.\(^15\)

- 735 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Minnesota in 2015, an increase of 14.5% from 642 in 2014.\(^16\)

- Of the 7,610 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,285 or 16.9% waiting to be adopted.\(^17\)
In 2015, approximately 21,338 grandparents in Minnesota had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\textsuperscript{18}

1,623 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 Minnesota increased from 43,155 in 2015 to 45,000 in 2016, a 4.1% change. There was a 19,296 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 0.6% from 2015.\textsuperscript{20}
- In Minnesota in 2015, 404,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.\textsuperscript{21}
- $490,960,305 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Minnesota, including 15.6% on basic assistance, 16.6% on child care, 0.5% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.\textsuperscript{22}
- $63,150,593 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Minnesota, serving 119,403 participants.\textsuperscript{23}
- In 2014, Minnesota distributed $584,663,171 in child support funds, no change of from 2013.\textsuperscript{24}
- 326,000 children in Minnesota 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 Minnesota was 3.9.\textsuperscript{26}
- 10.4% of households in Minnesota 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, Minnesota had a monthly average of 23,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 25,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 25,700 were recipients in 2013.\textsuperscript{28}
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Minnesota, a family of three could make no more than $36,365 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state’s median income.\textsuperscript{29}
- As of early 2016, Minnesota had 7,200 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\textsuperscript{30}
- In 2015, Head Start served 11,459 children in Minnesota, an increase of 1.5% from 2014.\textsuperscript{31}
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Minnesota made 14,309 home visits to 3,640 parents and children in 1,880 families, as well as enrolled 1,443 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 599,730 children in Minnesota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 10.2% from 2014.32
- In 2015, Minnesota had 3,835 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 6.4% from 2014, when 3,590 children were enrolled.33
- In 2015, Minnesota had 39,408 uninsured children.34
- 4,494 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Minnesota in 2015.35
- 360 infants under age 1 died in Minnesota in 2015.36
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Minnesota was 5.7 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 25.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 14 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 6,672 adults and adolescents and 33 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.38
- In 2015, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 137,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Minnesota.39
- In 2014, approximately 10,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2014, approximately 11,000 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 Minnesota reached $375,689,480.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 417 children in Minnesota aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42
- 80% of high school students in Minnesota graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43
- 11,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Minnesota were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44
- 42,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45
- 51.5% of young adults in Minnesota ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46
- In 2015, there were less than 10 reports of children in Minnesota aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 42 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 42 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Minnesota in 2015, compared to 37 in 2014.48
- 21,941 children younger than 18 were arrested in Minnesota in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 992 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 939 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota 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, Minnesota’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $25,685,752. The most utilized service in Minnesota was Case Management totaling $6,815,483.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MINNESOTA’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Minnesota spent $518,253,200 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $158,486,599 was from federal funds and $359,766,601 was from state and local funds.61
In 2014, of the $158,486,599 in federal funds received for child welfare, 34.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 37% was from Medicaid, 15.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 9.3% came from other federal sources.  

Minnesota received $34,937,407 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $13,454,928 for maintenance payments and $21,482,479 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.  

1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.  
3 Ibid.  
4 Ibid.  
5 Ibid.  
7 Ibid.  
Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.  
Note: The percent difference 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.


53 Ibid.


57 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.

61 Ibid.

62 Ibid.