MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN 2017

Mississippi's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,992,333	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³	31.3%
Population, Children Under 18 ⁴	728,007	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	30.0%
State Poverty Rate ⁶	22.0%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	34.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Mississippi had 29,770 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,612 reports were referred
 for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 8,730 victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi, a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 children, a an increase 3.5% from 2014. Of these children, 75.7% were neglected, 15.7% were physically abused, and 9.9% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 30.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 35 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Mississippi¹¹
- 4,773 children in Mississippi lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 3,597 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,691 aged 5 or younger, and 639 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 32.7% 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 Mississippi, 49% were white, 43% were black, 3% were Hispanic, <
 .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 4% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,386 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Mississippi, 64% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 312 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Mississippi in 2015, a decrease of 0.6% from 314 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 4,773 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 1,437 or 30.1% waiting to be adopted. 17



- In 2015, approximately 49,215 grandparents in Mississippi had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,443 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 Mississippi decreased from 13,972 in 2015 to 11,777 in 2016, a 18.6% change. There was a 5,924 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 17.6% from 2015.²⁰
- In Mississippi in 2015, 404,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$67,849,193 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Mississippi, including 12.1% on basic assistance, 1.8% on child care, 10.0% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.²²
- \$57,162,420 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Mississippi, serving 89,449 participants.²³
- In 2014, Mississippi distributed \$309,697,386 in child support funds, an increase of 2.4% from 2013.²⁴
- 228,000 children in Mississippi 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 Mississippi was 5.6.²⁶
- 22% of households in Mississippi 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, Mississippi had a monthly average of 20,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 17,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 18,300 were recepients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Mississippi, a family of three could make no more than \$34,999 at application, which is equivalent to 73% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Mississippi had 9,444 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 26,474 children in Mississippi, a decrease of 1.2% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Mississippi made 5,717 home visits to 879 parents and children in 392 families, as well as enrolled 108 new parents and children to the program.



HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 447,883 children in Mississippi were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 1.0% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Mississippi had 87,105 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 7.5% from 2014, when 80,575 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Mississippi had 29,367 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,387 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Mississippi in 2015.³⁵
- 356 infants under age 1 died in Mississippi in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Mississippi was 16.1 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 62.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 35 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 9,528 adults and adolescents and 57 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Mississippi.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 61,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Mississippi.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the
 past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 7,000 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 Mississippi reached \$141,709,137.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 81 children in Mississippi aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 76% of high school students in Mississippi graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 17,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Mississippi were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 61,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.⁴⁵
- 32.1% of young adults in Mississippi 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 Mississippi aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 19 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 31 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi in 2015, compared to 49 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 3,654 children younger than 18 were arrested in Mississippi in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 63 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹
- 243 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi 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, Mississippi's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$14,917,172. The most utilized service in Mississippi was Home-Based Services totaling \$2,090,535.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

• In 2014, Mississippi spent \$146,055,452 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$73,760,705 was from federal funds and \$72,294,747 was from state and local funds.⁶¹



- In 2014, of the \$73,760,705 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 11.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 17.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 20.6% was from TANF, and 7.2% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Mississippi received \$20,585,769 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$8,563,073 for maintenance payments and \$12,022,696 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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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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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¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 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 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.

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

¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 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 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children in care 2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 – FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table:



¹ "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

² U.S. Census Bureau (2016). *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid

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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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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. 62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.

