Pennsylvania’s Children at a Glance

State Population\textsuperscript{2} \hspace{1cm} 12,802,503  
Population, Children Under 18\textsuperscript{4} \hspace{1cm} 2,692,020  
State Poverty Rate\textsuperscript{6} \hspace{1cm} 13.2\%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18\textsuperscript{3} \hspace{1cm} 19.4\%  
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17\textsuperscript{5} \hspace{1cm} 18.7\%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5\textsuperscript{7} \hspace{1cm} 21.2\%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Pennsylvania had 36,223 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,223 reports were referred for investigation.\textsuperscript{8}

- In 2015, there were 3,855 victims of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 children, an increase 18.2\% from 2014. Of these children, 3.6\% were neglected, 38.5\% were physically abused, and 50.4\% were sexually abused.\textsuperscript{9}

- The number of child victims has increased 17.3\% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.\textsuperscript{10}

- In 2015, there were 34 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Pennsylvania\textsuperscript{11}

- 16,049 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 14,315 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 5,311 aged 5 or younger, and 3,606 were 16 or older.\textsuperscript{12}

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 12.1\% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2011.\textsuperscript{13}

- In 2015, of children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania, 40\% were white, 41\% were black, 13\% were Hispanic, < .5\% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5\% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 6\% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.\textsuperscript{14}

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 9,455 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Pennsylvania, 51\% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.\textsuperscript{15}

- 1,832 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania in 2015, a decrease of 0.9\% from 1,849 in 2014.\textsuperscript{16}

- Of the 16,049 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 2,423 or 15.1\% waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{17}
• In 2015, approximately 88,495 grandparents in Pennsylvania had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18

• 4,337 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 Pennsylvania decreased from 162,233 in 2015 to 144,087 in 2016, a 12.6% change. There was a 57,897 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 12.7% from 2015.20

• In Pennsylvania in 2015, 1,026,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21

• $889,245,124 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Pennsylvania, including 21.0% on basic assistance, 26.1% on child care, 0.8% on transportation, and 5.5% on nonassistance.22

• $135,578,978 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Pennsylvania, serving 245,979 participants.23

• In 2014, Pennsylvania distributed $1,263,370,002 in child support funds, a decrease of 2.9% from 2013.24

• 856,000 children in Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania was 5.6.26

• 11.3% of households in Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania had a monthly average of 93,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 91,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 92,800 were recipients in 2013.28

• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania, a family of three could make no more than $40,180 at application, which is equivalent to 57% of the state’s median income.29

• As of early 2016, Pennsylvania had 6,473 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30

• In 2015, Head Start served 36,605 children in Pennsylvania, a decrease of 0.1% from 2014.31

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Pennsylvania made 39,027 home visits to 6,208 parents and children in 3,169 families, as well as enrolled 2,105 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 1,241,249 children in Pennsylvania were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, a decrease of 5.8% from 2014.32

- In 2015, Pennsylvania had 294,342 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 12.2% from 2014, when 258,455 children were enrolled.33

- In 2015, Pennsylvania had 111,364 uninsured children.34

- 11,453 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Pennsylvania in 2015.35

- 862 infants under age 1 died in Pennsylvania in 2015.36

- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Pennsylvania was 8.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 30.3 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 18 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37

- Cumulative through 2015, there were 41,925 adults and adolescents and 373 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.38

- In 2015, an estimated 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 385,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Pennsylvania.39

- In 2014, approximately 24,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40

- In 2014, approximately 26,000 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 Pennsylvania reached $873,738,730.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 807 children in Pennsylvania aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.42

- 86% of high school students in Pennsylvania graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43

- 38,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Pennsylvania were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.44

- 156,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.45

- 45.3% of young adults in Pennsylvania ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46

- In 2015, there were 13 reports of children in Pennsylvania aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 71 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 106 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Pennsylvania in 2015, compared to 80 in 2014.48
- 48,337 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 2,747 of the arrests in 2015.49
- 2,781 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $64,255,313. The most utilized service in Pennsylvania was Other Services totaling $17,812,937.60

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PENNSYLVANIA’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Pennsylvania spent $1,752,747,125 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $367,270,894 was from federal funds and $1,385,476,231 was from state and local funds.61
In 2014, of the $367,270,894 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67.9% 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, 0.3% was from Medicaid, 3.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15.9% was from TANF, and 7.6% came from other federal sources.62

Pennsylvania received $122,290,016 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $38,536,495 for maintenance payments and $83,753,521 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.


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


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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.


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Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.


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Ibid.
Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served.

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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.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.

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

caseworker.


58 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.

62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.