

PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN 2017

Puerto Rico's Children at a Glance¹

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|--|-----------|---|-------|
| State Population ² | 3,474,182 | Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ³ | 58.3% |
| Population, Children Under 18 ⁴ | 737,393 | Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵ | 56.6% |
| State Poverty Rate ⁶ | 46.1% | Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷ | 63.7% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had 17,643 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,643 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 6,950 victims of abuse or neglect in Puerto Rico, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 9.5% from 2014. Of these children, 61.9% were neglected, 27.1% were physically abused, and 2.2% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 32.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 7 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Puerto Rico¹¹
- 4,190 children in Puerto Rico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 4,363 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 789 aged 5 or younger, and 888 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 4% 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 Puerto Rico, 1% were white, < .5% were black, 98% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, N.R. were Asian or Pacific Islander and 1% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 545 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Puerto Rico, 63% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 19 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Puerto Rico in 2015, an increase of 72.7% from 11 in 2014.¹⁶
- Of the 4,190 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 263 or 6.3% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷

- In 2015, approximately 44,304 grandparents in Puerto Rico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,137 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 Puerto Rico decreased from 29,733 in 2015 to 24,060 in 2016, a 23.6% change. There was a 8,834 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 22.7% from 2015.²⁰
- In Puerto Rico in 2015, 596,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$171,070,840 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Puerto Rico, serving 165,042 participants.²²
- 256,000 children in Puerto Rico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had a monthly average of 7,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 10,000 were recipients in 2013.²⁴
- In 2015, Head Start served 36,776 children in Puerto Rico, an increase of 0.8% from 2014.²⁵

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had 19,962 uninsured children.²⁶
- 3,282 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Puerto Rico in 2015.²⁷
- 241 infants under age 1 died in Puerto Rico in 2015.²⁸
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Puerto Rico was 18.1 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 57.0 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 34 births for girls ages 15 to 19.²⁹
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 34,676 adults and adolescents and 404 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.³⁰

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 18 children in Puerto Rico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.³¹
- 21,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Puerto Rico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.³²

- 83,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.³³

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE³⁴

- 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.³⁵
- 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.³⁶
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.³⁷ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.³⁸
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.³⁹
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁴⁰
- 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.⁴¹
- 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.⁴²

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Puerto Rico's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$8,160,000. The most utilized service in Puerto Rico was Counseling Services totaling \$5,059,200.⁴³

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Puerto Rico spent \$150,558,280 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$26,582,396 was from federal funds and \$123,975,884 was from state and local funds.⁴⁴
- In 2014, of the \$26,582,396 in federal funds received for child welfare, 13.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 26.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 57.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 2.5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁵
- Puerto Rico received \$1,717,979 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$1,717,979 for maintenance payments and \$0 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁴⁶

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

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

⁷ Ibid.

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>.

⁹ 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>.

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>.

¹¹ 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 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2010-2014*. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf>.

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.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Age Group, 2013, <1 and 1-5 age groups (Number)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/1889.2616/12988>.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Age Group, 2013, 16-20 age group (Number)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2619/12988>.

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.

¹⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2013(Percent)*. Retrieved February 24, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2638.2601.2600.2598.2603.2597.2602.1353/12992.12993>.

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: Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 20045– FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting_foster_care2014.pdf.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children Existing Foster Care by Exit Reason, 2013, Reunified with Parent or Primary Caretaker (Percent)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6277-children-exiting-foster-care-by-exit-reason#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2629/13051>.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2015). *Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2005 – FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_adopted2014.pdf.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014: Table: Children in Public Foster Care on September 30th of Each Year Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children_waiting2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). *American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

¹⁹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Placement Type, 2013, Foster Family Home - Relative (Number)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-type#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/2621/12994>.

²⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). *Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Recipients*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.

²¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2015) *A State by State Look at TANF: State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs Do Not Provide Adequate Safety Net for Poor Families: TANF Provides a Safety Net to Few Poor Families: Map TANF-to-poverty ratio: # of families receiving TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children (2013-2014)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.cbpp.org/state-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-programs-do-not-provide-adequate-safety-net-for-poor>.

²² USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). *Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>.

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). *Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Food Costs*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>.

²³ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2014). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race, by State, 2013, Total Race (Number)*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7244-children-living-in-households-with-a-high-housing-cost-burden?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/14287,14288>.

²⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2015). *FY 2014 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served*. Retrieved February 2, 2016 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-data-table-1>.

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²⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2015). *Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2014*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2014-hs-program-factsheet.html>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). *Types of Health Insurance Coverage By Age, Civilian noninstitutionalized population: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from http://www.factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_B27010&prodType=table.

²⁷ Centers for Disease Control. (2015) Births: Final data for 2014. *National Vital Statistics Reports*. 64(12). Retrieved February 16, 2016 from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12_tables.pdf.

²⁸ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2014). *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health*

Statistics, National Vital Statistics System: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Infant Mortality, by State, 2013 (Number). Retrieved February 3, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6051-infant-mortality?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/any/12718>.

²⁹ Hamilton B., Martin J., Osterman M., Curtin, S., & Mathews, T. (2015) Births: Final data for 2014. *National Vital Statistics Reports 64*(12). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved February 16, 2016 from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf.

³⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). *HIV Surveillance Report, 2014. Vol. 26*: Retrieved February 6, 2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-us.pdf>.

³¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). *Children exiting foster care by exit reason*. Retrieved February 8, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6277-children-exiting-foster-care-by-exit-reason?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2632/13050>.

³² Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). *Teens ages 16 to 19 Not in School and Not Working*. Retrieved February 8, 2016 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7803-teens-ages-16-to-19-not-in-school-and-not-working-by-race#detailed/2/2-52/false/869/13/15063>.

³³ 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 February 25, 2016 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>.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child welfare: HHS could play a greater role in helping child welfare agencies recruit and retain staff*. Retrieved March 9, 2016 from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ National Child Welfare Workforce Institute. (2011). *Child welfare workforce demographics (2000-2010): Snapshot of the frontline child welfare caseworker*. Albany, NY. Retrieved March 7, 2016 from https://www.ncwwi.org/files/Workforce_Demographic_Trends_May2011.pdf.

³⁸ Gallant, M. (2013). *Does your organization have a healthy employee turnover rate?* Retrieved March 7, 2016 from <http://www.halogensoftware.com/blog/does-your-organization-have-healthy-employee-turnover>.

³⁹ Strolin-Goltzman, J., Kollar, S., & Trinkle, J. (2009). Listening to the voices of children in foster care: Youths speak out about child welfare workforce turnover and selection. *Social Work, 55*(1), 47-53.

⁴⁰ Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (2011). *NSCAW II baseline report caseworker characteristics, child welfare services, and experiences of children placed in out-of-home care*. Washington, DC. Retrieved February 19, 2016 from www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/nscaw2_cw.pdf.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Colorado Department of Human Services. (2014). *Colorado child welfare county workload study*. Retrieved March 7, 2016 from [http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditor1.nsf/All/E5214710B77C878487257D320050F29A/\\$FILE/1354S%20-%20Colorado%20Childrens%20Welfare%20Workload%20Study%20Report%20August%202014.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditor1.nsf/All/E5214710B77C878487257D320050F29A/$FILE/1354S%20-%20Colorado%20Childrens%20Welfare%20Workload%20Study%20Report%20August%202014.pdf).

⁴³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services. (2016). *SSBG Annual Report FY 2014*. Retrieved March 20, 2017 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/ssbg-annual-report-fy-2014>

⁴⁴ DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M., & Cooper, H. (2014). *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 February 26, 2016 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. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.