KENTUCKY’S CHILDREN 2017

Kentucky’s Children at a Glance

State Population: 4,425,092
Population, Children Under 18: 1,010,583
State Poverty Rate: 18.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18: 25.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17: 24.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5: 28.6%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

• In 2015, Kentucky had 101,094 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 55,209 reports were referred for investigation.

• In 2015, there were 18,897 victims of abuse or neglect in Kentucky, a rate of 18.7 per 1,000 children, an increase 5.4% from 2014. Of these children, 92.2% were neglected, 8.3% were physically abused, and 4.8% were sexually abused.

• The number of child victims has increased 25.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.

• In 2015, there were 16 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Kentucky.

• 7,538 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2015, compared with 6,659 children in 2011. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 2,673 aged 5 or younger, and 1,331 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 Kentucky, 74% were white, 12% were black, 5% were Hispanic, < .5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, < .5% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 9% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

• Of the 5,125 children exiting out-of-home care in 2014 in Kentucky, 41% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.

• 961 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Kentucky in 2015, an increase of 5.7% from 909 in 2014.

• Of the 7,538 children in out-of-home care in 2015, there were 2,579 or 34.2% waiting to be adopted.
• In 2015, approximately 55,073 grandparents in Kentucky had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\textsuperscript{18}

• 284 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 Kentucky decreased from 50,185 in 2015 to 44,682 in 2016, a 12.3% change. There was a 22,758 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 11.2% from 2015.\textsuperscript{20}

• In Kentucky in 2015, 472,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.\textsuperscript{21}

• $254,138,900 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Kentucky, including 55.0% on basic assistance, 18.4% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 0.0% on nonassistance.\textsuperscript{22}

• $59,561,015 was spent in 2015 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Kentucky, serving 116,179 participants.\textsuperscript{23}

• In 2014, Kentucky distributed $381,682,114 in child support funds, no change of from 2013.\textsuperscript{24}

• 286,000 children in Kentucky 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 Kentucky was 4.8.\textsuperscript{26}

• 17.5% of households in Kentucky 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, Kentucky had a monthly average of 10,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 9,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 19,100 were recipients in 2013.\textsuperscript{28}

• In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky, a family of three could make no more than $27,795 at application, which is equivalent to 48% of the state’s median income.\textsuperscript{29}

• As of early 2016, Kentucky had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\textsuperscript{30}

• In 2015, Head Start served 16,961 children in Kentucky, an increase of 5.9% from 2014.\textsuperscript{31}

• Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Kentucky made 52,552 home visits to 4,448 parents and children in 2,205 families, as well as enrolled 1,369 new parents and children to the program.
HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 525,516 children in Kentucky were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 2.4% from 2014.\(^{32}\)

- In 2015, Kentucky had 86,976 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 2.4% from 2014, when 84,882 children were enrolled.\(^{33}\)

- In 2015, Kentucky had 42,807 uninsured children.\(^{34}\)

- 4,846 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Kentucky in 2015.\(^{35}\)

- 375 infants under age 1 died in Kentucky in 2015.\(^{36}\)

- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Kentucky was 13.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 61.9 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 32 births for girls ages 15 to 19.\(^{37}\)

- Cumulative through 2015, there were 6,427 adults and adolescents and 39 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.\(^{38}\)

- In 2015, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 121,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Kentucky.\(^{39}\)

- In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\(^{40}\)

- In 2014, approximately 9,000 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 Kentucky reached $262,000,618.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 582 children in Kentucky aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.\(^{42}\)

- 86% of high school students in Kentucky graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.\(^{43}\)

- 20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Kentucky were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.\(^{44}\)

- 67,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.\(^{45}\)

- 34.8% of young adults in Kentucky 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 Kentucky aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 41 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\(^{47}\)
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 49 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Kentucky in 2015, compared to 33 in 2014.  
- 6,232 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 336 of the arrests in 2015.  
- 774 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky in 2013.

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- 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.  
- 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.  
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%. Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.  
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.  
- 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.  
- 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.  
- 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.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Kentucky’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $19,734,503. The most utilized service in Kentucky was Protective Services for Children totaling $11,439,533.

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY’S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Kentucky spent $534,897,728 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $204,051,028 was from federal funds and $330,846,700 was from state and local funds.
• In 2014, of the $204,051,028 in federal funds received for child welfare, 38.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 51.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.0% was from Medicaid, 10.7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 39.6% was from TANF, and 5.9% came from other federal sources.62

• Kentucky received $32,986,163 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including $21,581,327 for maintenance payments and $11,404,836 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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27 Ibid.
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Agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds.

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.

Ibid.