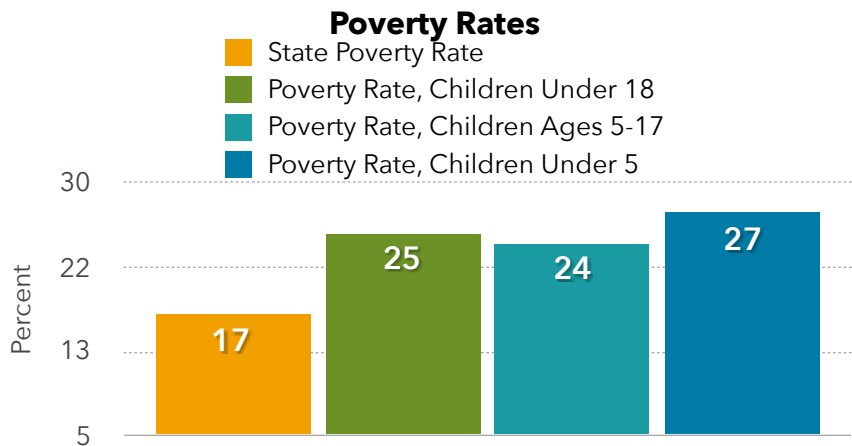


ALABAMA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 4,841,164 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,084,701

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **3,329** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Alabama, 42% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **503** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alabama in 2016, a decrease of 1.8% from **512** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **5,053** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,075** or 21.3% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2015, approximately **62,047** grandparents in Alabama had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **546** of the children in out-of-home care in 2014 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Alabama had 26,528 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,036 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 10,157 victims of abuse or neglect in Alabama, a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 children, an increase of 20.0% from 2015. Of these children, 40.4% were neglected, 53.2% were physically abused, and 15.3% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 20% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

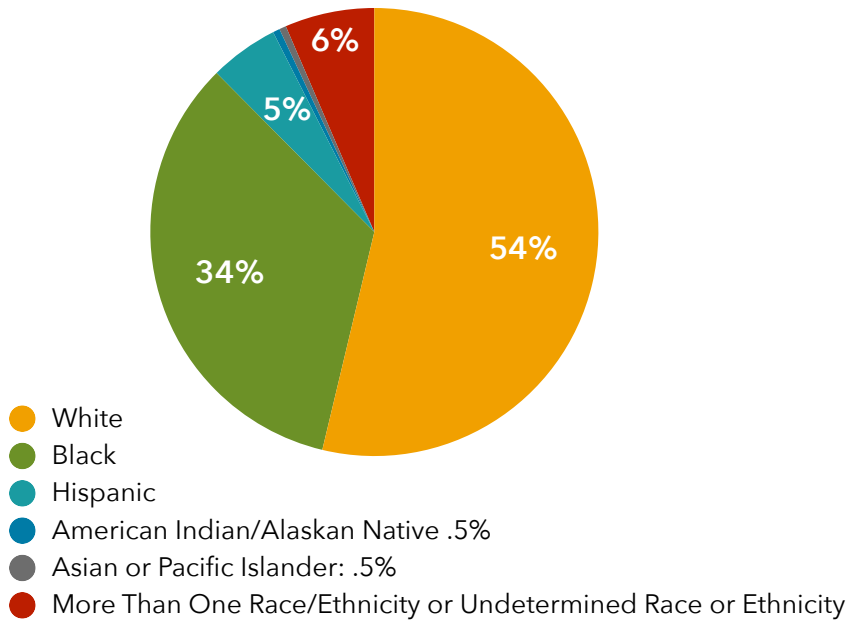


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Alabama had a monthly average of 24,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 24,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 25,200 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alabama, a family of three could make no more than \$26,112 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Alabama had 8,363 children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 16,414 children in Alabama, a decrease of 6.4% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Alabama made 43,644 home visits to 4,289 parents and children in 1,853 families, as well as enrolled 2,459 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were 26 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alabama.¹¹
- 5,053 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,745 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.5% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.¹³

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alabama decreased from 31,774 in 2015 to 25,772 in 2016, a 23.3% change. There was a 11,239 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 21% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 10

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received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$153,353,724 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Alabama, including 10.8% on basic assistance and 2.2% on transportation.²²
- \$29,801,171 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alabama, serving 129,160 participants.²³
- 24.1% of households in Alabama were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 647,532 children in Alabama were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 1.6% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Alabama had 150,040 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 12.8% from 2014, when 133,043 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Alabama had 39,111 uninsured children.³⁴
- 6,096 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alabama in 2016.³⁵
- 537 infants under age 1 died in Alabama in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alabama was 13.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 55.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 30 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 12,253 adults and adolescents and 80 children younger than 13 reported as having

HIV/AIDS in Alabama.³⁸

- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Alabama reached \$234,480,306.³⁹

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 304 children in Alabama aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 24,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alabama were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 78,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in Alabama aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 33 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 89 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alabama in 2016, compared to 65 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 4,800 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alabama in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 321 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 849 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama in 2015.⁵⁰

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.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

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Alabama's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Alabama was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Alabama spent \$281,886,848 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$134,535,982 was from federal funds and \$147,350,866 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2014, of the \$134,535,982 in federal funds received for child welfare, 29.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 34.4% was from Medicaid, 14.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 11.2% was from TANF, and 2.0% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - Alabama received \$26,142,649 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$7,594,960 for maintenance payments and \$18,547,689 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³
-

1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.

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3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid

6 Ibid.

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. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.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. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2016. Retrieved February 6, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2015.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.

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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. (2017). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2016. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table.
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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.

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