

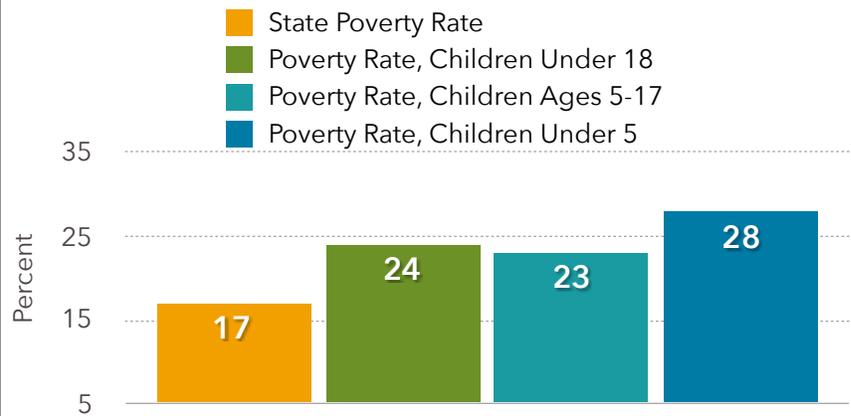
ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 2,968,472 | Population of Children Under 18: 693,626

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **3,405** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Arkansas, 39% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **758** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Arkansas in 2016, an increase of 2.4% from **24.55%** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **4,880** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,198** or 24.55% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2015, approximately **42,526** grandparents in Arkansas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **724** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Arkansas had 54,575 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 34,586 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 9,707 victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 13.8 per 1,000 children, an increase 5.5% from 2015. Of these children, 56.3% were neglected, 20.9% were physically abused, and 20.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 17.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

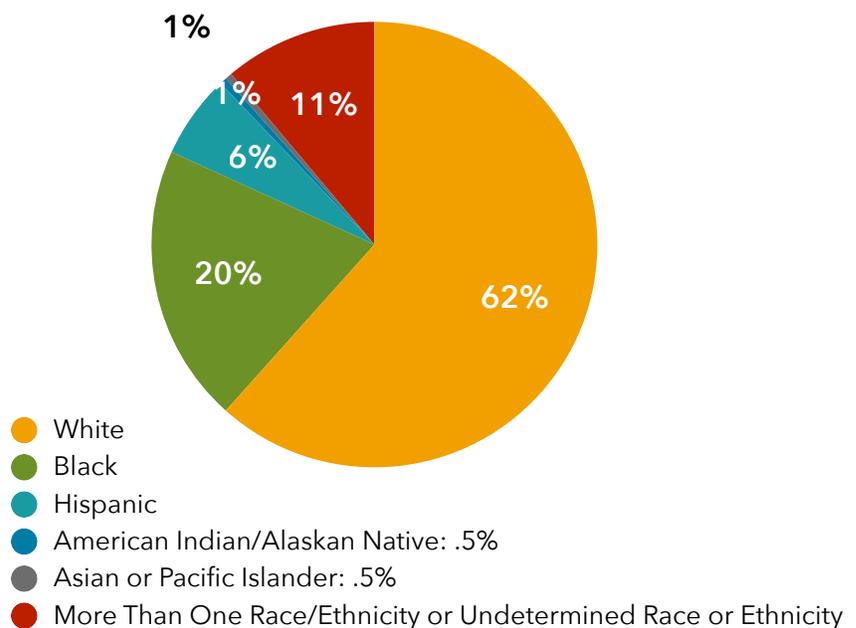


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Arkansas had a monthly average of 7,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 7,800 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arkansas, a family of three could make no more than \$29,760 at application, which is equivalent to 61% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Arkansas had 2,703 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2015, Head Start served 9,838 children in Arkansas, a decrease of 4.2% from 2014.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Arkansas made 20,954 home visits to 4,190 parents and children in 2,199 families, as well as enrolled 2,290 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were 42 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Arkansas.¹¹
- 4,880 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,548 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 7.3% 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 Arkansas decreased from 10,855 in 2015 to 8,501 in 2016, a 27.7% change. There was a 3,825 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a

decrease of 27.1% from 2015.²⁰

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 5 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$153,529,641 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Arkansas, including 3.7% on basic assistance, 5.2% on child care, 0.9% on transportation, and 3.3% on non-assistance.²²
- \$19,741,735 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arkansas, serving 80,555 participants.²³
- In 2014, Arkansas distributed \$230,001,139 in child support funds, an increase of 1.3% from 2013.²⁴
- 197,000 children in Arkansas 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 Arkansas was 3.9.²⁶
- 25 of households in Arkansas 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

- 412,329 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 13.0% from 2014.³²
- In 2015, Arkansas had 120,863 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 7.9% from 2014, when 112,071 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2015, Arkansas had 34,585 uninsured children.³⁴
- 3,361 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arkansas in 2015.³⁵
- 309 infants under age 1 died in Arkansas in 2015.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Arkansas was 15.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 72.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 38 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷

- Cumulative through 2015, there were 5,304 adults and adolescents and 38 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.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 Arkansas.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 8,000 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 Arkansas reached \$205,529,321. ⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 204 children in Arkansas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 85% of high school students in Arkansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.⁴³
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Arkansas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2015.⁴⁴
- 52,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 30% of young adults in Arkansas 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 Arkansas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 23 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 39 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2015, compared to 36 in 2014.⁴⁸
- 8,045 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arkansas in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 424 of the arrests in 2015.⁴⁹

- 555 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas 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, Arkansas's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Arkansas was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Arkansas spent \$137,876,516 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$82,225,244 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
- Arkansas received \$6,516,334 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, 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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5 Ibid

6 Ibid.

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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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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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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
- 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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- 30 Ibid.
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51 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.

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