

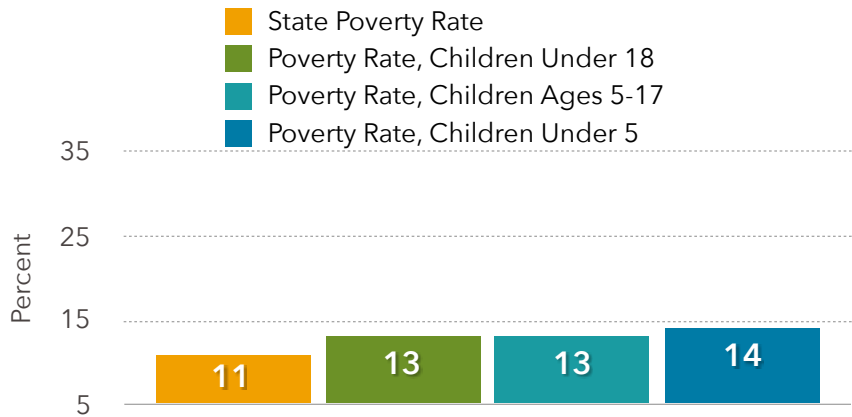
# COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 5,359,295 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,242,620

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **4,898** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Colorado, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **839** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Colorado in 2016, an increase of 2.3% from **18.11%** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **5,733** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,038** or 18.11% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2015, approximately **35,909** grandparents in Colorado had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,338** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Colorado had 89,845 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,306 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 11,226 victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado, a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children, an increase of 11.1% from 2015. Of these children, 80.5% were neglected, 11.5% were physically abused, and 9.5% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 11.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>



## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

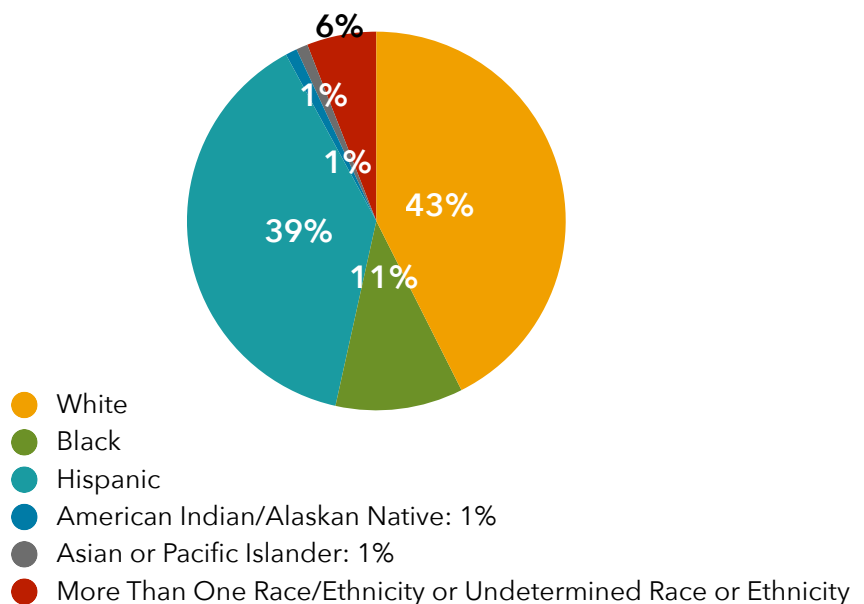
- In 2015, Colorado had a monthly average of 16,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 16,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 15,900 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2016, Colorado had 24 children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 10,379 children in Colorado, a decrease of 5.2% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Colorado made 30,546 home visits to 5,047 parents and children in 2,529 families, as well as enrolled 2,734 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

• In 2016, there were 37 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Colorado.<sup>11</sup>

• 5,733 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 5,644 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

• The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.6% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

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 Colorado decreased from 45,174 in 2015 to 43,317 in 2016, a 4.3% change. There was a 16,461 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 4.1% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 26 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$374,739,484 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Colorado, including 14.2% on basic assistance, 0.2% on child care, and 2.0% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$23,890,939 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Colorado, serving 86,999 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 16.5 of households in Colorado 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.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 506,771 children in Colorado were enrolled in Medicaid in 2015, an increase of 0.9% from 2014.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2015, Colorado had 167,227 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 20.4% from 2014, when 138,903 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2015, Colorado had 77,634 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 5,961 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Colorado in 2015.<sup>35</sup>
- 319 infants under age 1 died in Colorado in 2015.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Colorado was 8.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 35.9 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 19 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2015, there were 11,168 adults and adolescents and 34 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Colorado reached \$593,705,700. <sup>64</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 323 children in Colorado aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>

- 19,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Colorado were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 60,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2016, there were 12 reports of children in Colorado aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 67 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 56 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Colorado in 2016, compared to 52 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 21,548 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 636 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 999 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## 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.<sup>52</sup>*

- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.<sup>56</sup>*

- 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.<sup>57</sup>
- 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.<sup>58</sup>

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Colorado's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Colorado was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Colorado spent \$413,358,464 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$118,874,075 was from federal funds and \$147,350,866 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- 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.<sup>62</sup>
- Colorado received \$17,739,376 federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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