

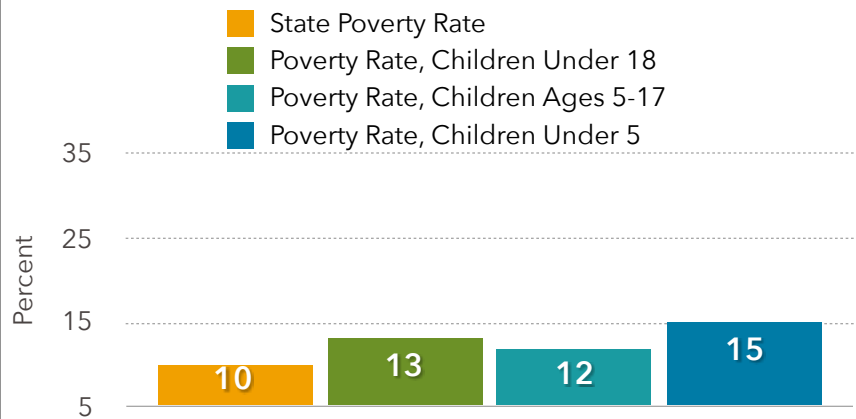
# CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 3,588,570 | Population of Children Under 18: 743,032

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

- Of the **1,483** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Connecticut, 41% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **529** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Connecticut in 2016, a decrease of 7.7% from **26.97%** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **4,119** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,111** or 26.97% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **16,044** grandparents in Connecticut had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,412** 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, Connecticut had 40,187 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,935 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 7,803 victims of abuse or neglect in Connecticut, a rate of 10.4 per 1,000 children, an increase of 12.0% from 2015. Of these children, 84.9% were neglected, 6.7% were physically abused, and 4.7% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 12% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

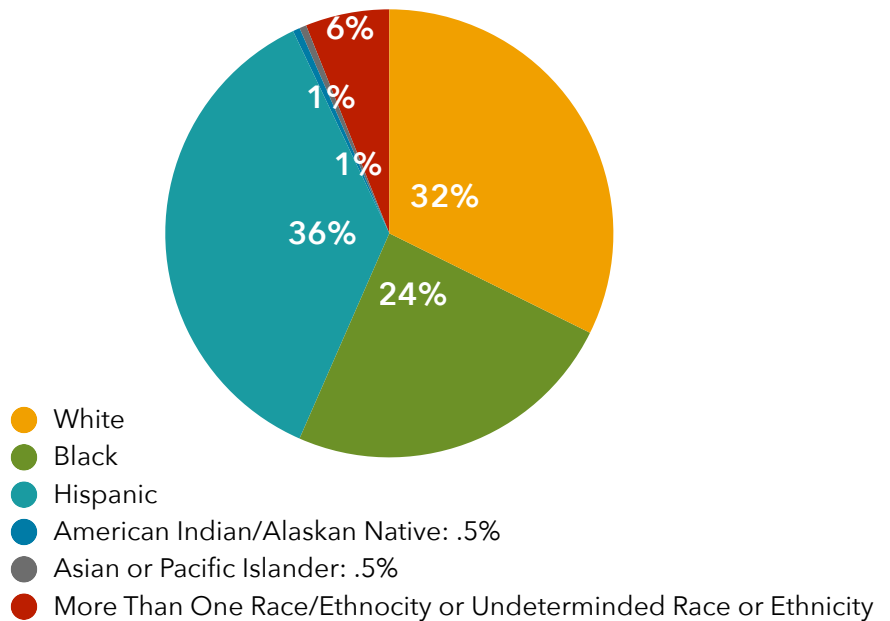


### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Connecticut had a monthly average of 8,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 8,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 9,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$44,601 at application, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Connecticut had no children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2015, Head Start served 6,383 children in Connecticut, a decrease of 1.7% from 2014.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Connecticut made 25,375 home visits to 2,775 parents and children in 1,370 families, as well as enrolled 1,478 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2016, there were 6 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Connecticut.<sup>11</sup>
- 4,119 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 3,908 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 5.4% 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 Connecticut decreased from 26,274 in 2015 to 22,548 in 2016, a 16.5% change. There was a 11,401 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a

decrease of 15.3% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 23 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$444,770,144 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Connecticut, including 3.7% on basic assistance and 4.0% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$15,007,206 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Connecticut, serving 49,155 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 16.7 of households in Connecticut 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

- 345,933 children in Connecticut were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 5.7% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Connecticut had 25,551 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 2.7% from 2014, when 24,884 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Connecticut had 27,104 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 2,813 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Connecticut in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 174 infants under age 1 died in Connecticut in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Connecticut was 4.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 17.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 10 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 16,865 adults and adolescents and 184 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Connecticut reached \$294,149,772.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 119 children in Connecticut aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 10,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Connecticut were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 33,000 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 less than 10 reports of children in Connecticut aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 12 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- Less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Connecticut in 2016, compared to 13 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 8,264 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 416 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 141 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut 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, Connecticut's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Connecticut was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Connecticut spent \$751,110,234 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$266,853,616 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>
  - Connecticut received \$57,358,415 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$21,353,157 for maintenance payments and \$36,005,258 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>
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2 U.S. Census Bureau (2017). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>.

3 Ibid.

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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.

10 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 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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>.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

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22 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2018). TANF E.1.: FY 2016 Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures Summary by Funding Stream, by State . Retrieved February 20, 2018 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf\\_financial\\_data\\_fy\\_2016\\_121817.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_financial_data_fy_2016_121817.pdf)

Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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- Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.
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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.
- 33 Ibid.
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- 35 Centers for Disease Control. (2018) Births: Final data for 2016. National Vital Statistics Reports. 67(1). Retrieved February 20, 2018 from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67\\_01\\_tables.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_01_tables.pdf)
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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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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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