

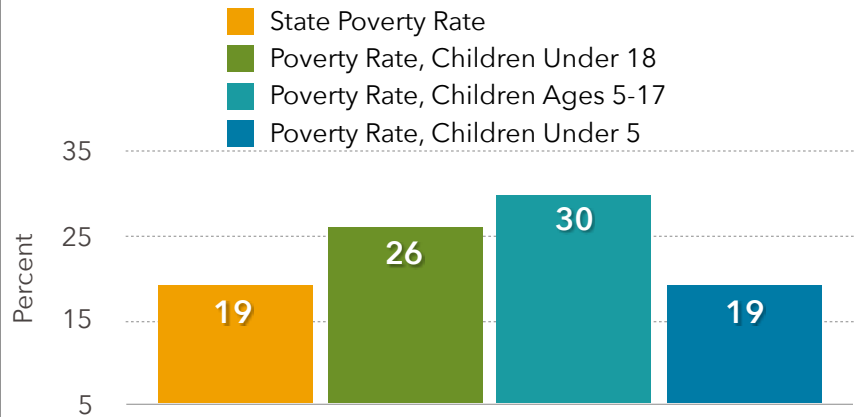
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 659,009 | Population of Children Under 18: 118,383

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **422** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in District of Columbia, 38% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **110** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in District of Columbia in 2016, an increase of 3.8% from **26.27%** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **826** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **217** or 26.27% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **2,354** grandparents in District of Columbia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **164** 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, District of Columbia had 14,656 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,356 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 1,366 victims of abuse or neglect in District of Columbia, a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 children, an increase of 1.3% from 2015. Of these children, 85.4% were neglected, 19.2% were physically abused, and 5.3% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 1.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

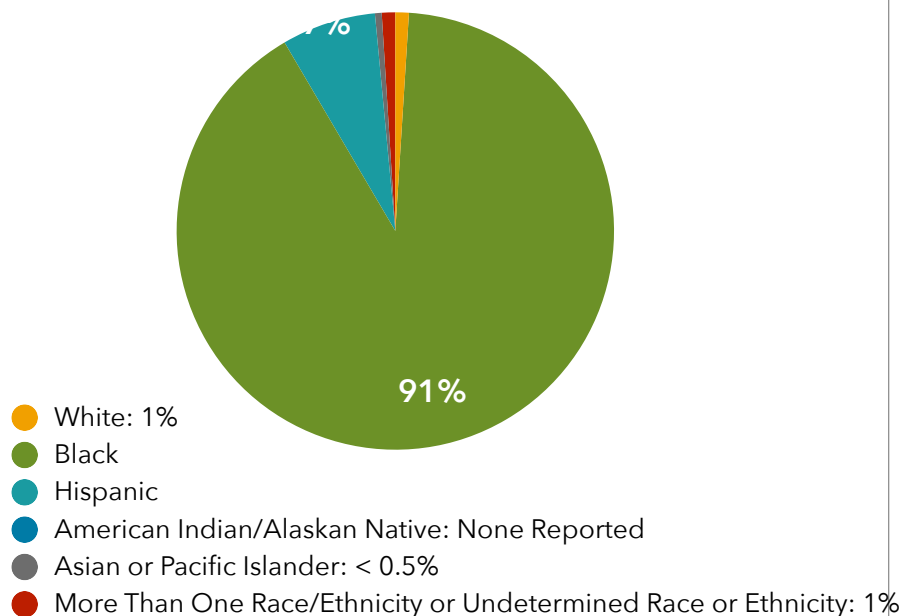


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, District of Columbia had a monthly average of 1,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 1,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 1,700 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in District of Columbia, a family of three could make no more than \$45,775 at application, which is equivalent to 65% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, District of Columbia had no children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 3,289 children in District of Columbia, a Decrease of 0.5% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in District of Columbia made 3,367 home visits to 514 parents and children in 273 families, as well as enrolled 351 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁵

- In 2016, there were 3 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in District of Columbia.¹¹
- 826 children in District of Columbia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 873 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 5.4% 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 District of Columbia Decrease from 15,670 in 2015 to 13,634 in 2016, a 14.9% change. There was a 5,472 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 14.1% from 2015.²⁰

- While its spending on child care has fluctuated between 2001 and 2016, the share of its TANF dollars that D.C. spends on child care has significantly decreased since 2001.²¹
- \$299,074,028 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in District of Columbia, including 15.5% on basic assistance and 12.4% on child care.²²
- \$6,156,168 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in District of Columbia, serving 14,363 participants.²³
- 23.6% of households in District of Columbia 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

- 81,589 children in District of Columbia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 8.5% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, District of Columbia had 13,943 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 30.6% from 2014, when 10,676 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, District of Columbia had 2,414 uninsured children.³⁴
- 998 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in District of Columbia in 2016.³⁵
- 70 infants under age 1 died in District of Columbia in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in District of Columbia was 18.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 30.5 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 21,242 adults and adolescents and 194 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in District of Columbia.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in District of Columbia reached \$62,588,368.³⁹

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 64 children in District of Columbia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 3,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in District of Columbia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 11,000 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 no reports of children in District of Columbia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and less than 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 11 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in District of Columbia in 2016, compared to 13 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 671 children younger than 18 were arrested in District of Columbia in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 83 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 105 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in District of Columbia 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, District of Columbia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in District of Columbia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, District of Columbia spent \$223,186,331 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$66,297,739 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
- District of Columbia received \$30,885,985 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$7,446,083 for maintenance payments and \$23,439,902 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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7 Ibid.

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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.

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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: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
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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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