

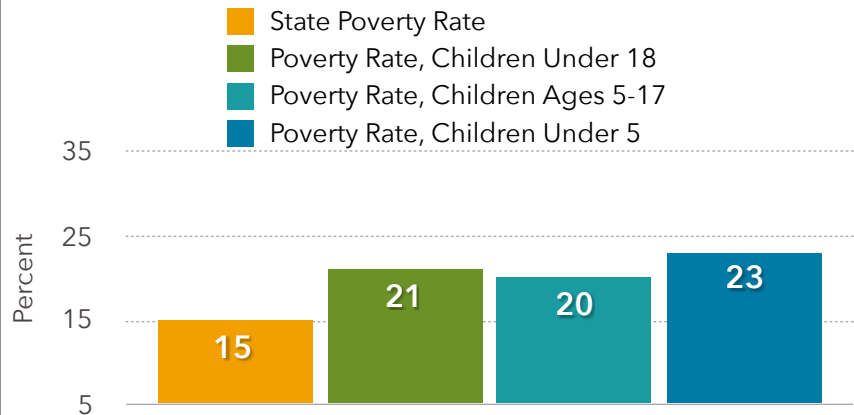
# FLORIDA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 19,934,451 | Population of Children Under 18: 4,080,165

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

- Of the **15,433** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Florida, 49% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **3,573** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Florida in 2016, an increase of 4.1% from **3,431** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **23,810** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **6,870** or 28.85% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **148,948** grandparents in Florida had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **9,996** 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, Florida had 225,173 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 166,465 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 41,894 victims of abuse or neglect in Florida, a rate of 10.1 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 4.3% from 2015. Of these children, 56.2% were neglected, 8.7% were physically abused, and 6.3% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 4.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

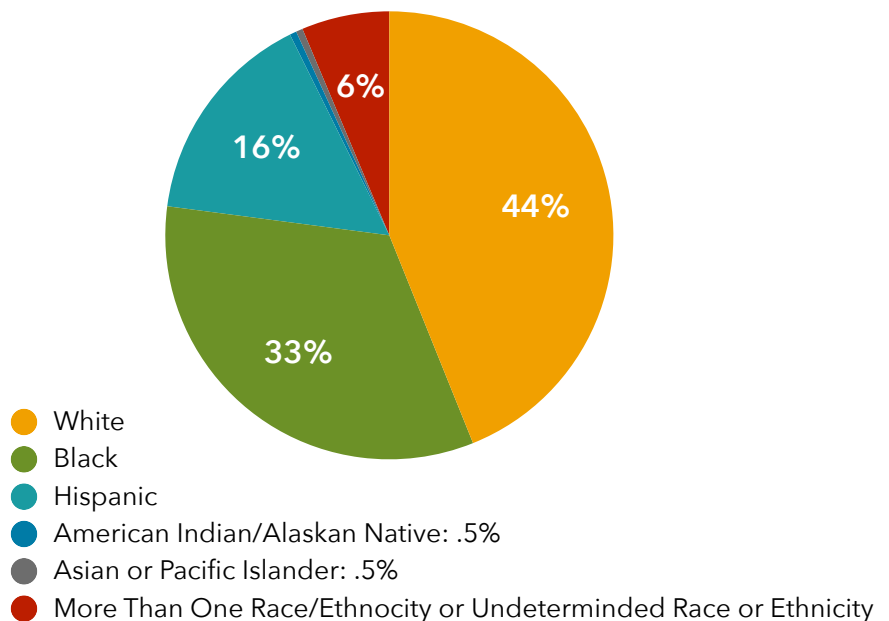


## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Florida had a monthly average of 82,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 90,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 84,700 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than \$30,240 at application, which is equivalent to 55% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Florida had 25,774 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 39,249 children in Florida, a decrease of 1.1% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Florida made 15,975 home visits to 2,742 parents and children in 1,518 families, as well as enrolled 1,581 new parents and children to the program.<sup>65</sup>

- In 2016, there were 110 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Florida.<sup>11</sup>
- 23,810 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 22,364 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-

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 Florida decreased from 84,148 in 2015 to 79,040 in 2016, a 6.5% change. There was a 47,592 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 3.1% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 12

received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$795,357,908 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Florida, including 4.7% on basic assistance, 13.9% on child care, and 0.6% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$98,911,153 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Florida, serving 481,520 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 22.7 of households in Florida 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

- 2,398,354 children in Florida were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 5.9% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Florida had 374,884 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 12.4% from 2015, when 428,094 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Florida had 362,988 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 19,589 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Florida in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 1,381 infants under age 1 died in Florida in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Florida was 8.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 39.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 21 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 135,755 adults and adolescents and 1,569 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Florida.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Florida reached \$1,246,526,068.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

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

- 71,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Florida were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 232,000 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 22 reports of children in Florida aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 96 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 197 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Florida in 2016, compared to 158 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 57,843 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 3,861 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 2,853 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Florida 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, Florida's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Florida was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Florida spent \$1,092,725,805 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$572,399,019 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>
  - Florida received \$3,655,366 in 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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1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.

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.

4 Ibid.

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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.

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>.

11 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 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf>

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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- 34 U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). Types of Health Insurance Coverage By Age, Universe: Civilian noninstitutionalized population: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved January 31, 2018 from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>.
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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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