

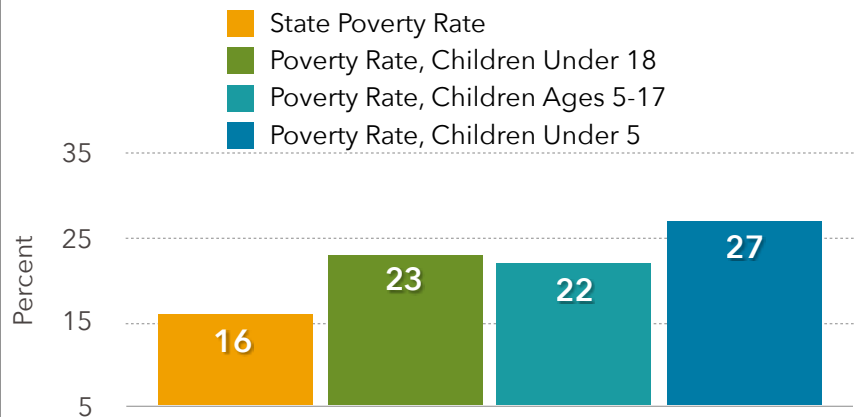
GEORGIA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 10,099,320 | Population of Children Under 18: 2,472,797

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **6,931** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Georgia, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **1,121** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Georgia in 2016, an increase of 22.9% from **912** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **12,381** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,998** or 24.21% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **102,142** grandparents in Georgia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **2,609** 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, Georgia had 115,311 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 87,652 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 21,635 victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia, a rate of 8.6 per 1,000 children, a decrease 19.7% from 2015. Of these children, 75.9% were neglected, 10.3% were physically abused, and 4.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 19.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

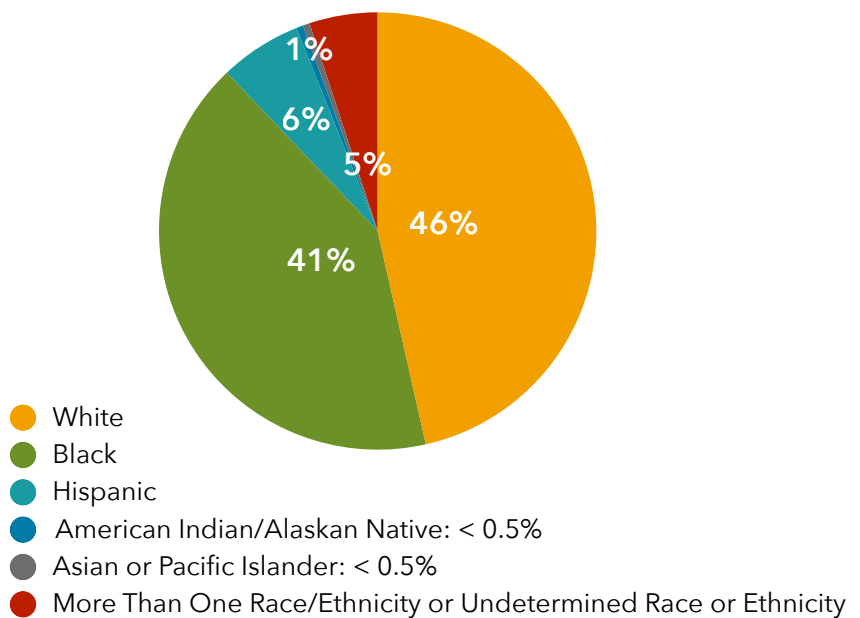


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Georgia had a monthly average of 58,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 61,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 55,000 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Georgia, a family of three could make no more than \$28,160 at application, which is equivalent to 49% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Georgia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 25,033 children in Georgia, a decrease of 0.7% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Georgia made 9,611 home visits to 1,549 parents and children in 816 families, as well as enrolled 583 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁵

- In 2016, there were 97 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Georgia.¹¹
- 12,381 children in Georgia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 10,935 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 13.2% 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 Georgia decreased from 25,853 in 2015 to 24,830 in 2016, a 4.1% change. There was a 12,806 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 4.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 5 received

TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$489,632,396 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Georgia, including 13.7% on basic assistance and 0.9% on transportation.²²
- \$69,823,569 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Georgia, serving 253,653 participants.²³
- 23.2% of households in Georgia 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

- 1,348,651 children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 0.52% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Georgia had 232,050 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 0.54% from 2015, when 230,815 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Georgia had 191,483 uninsured children.³⁴
- 12,704 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Georgia in 2016.³⁵
- 976 infants under age 1 died in Georgia in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Georgia was 11.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 47.4 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 50,074 adults and adolescents and 263 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Georgia.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Georgia reached \$447,129,259.³⁹

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 521 children in Georgia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²

- 46,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Georgia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 147,000 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 20 reports of children in Georgia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 66 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 141 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2016, compared to 135 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 22,646 children younger than 18 were arrested in Georgia in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,282 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 1,110 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia 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, Georgia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Georgia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Georgia spent \$555,622,633 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$346,757,816 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
- Georgia received \$70,040,319 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$39,006,382 for maintenance payments and \$35,033,937 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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3 Ibid.

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9 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 6, 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 percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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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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- 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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Appendix A: SFY 2012 State-by-State Data. 2008/2010 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey and 2012 Casey Child Welfare Financing Survey. Washington, DC. Retrieved February 26, 2016 from <http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2014-61ChildWelfareSpending-2012-2nd-revision-march.pdf>.

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.

62 Ibid.

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