

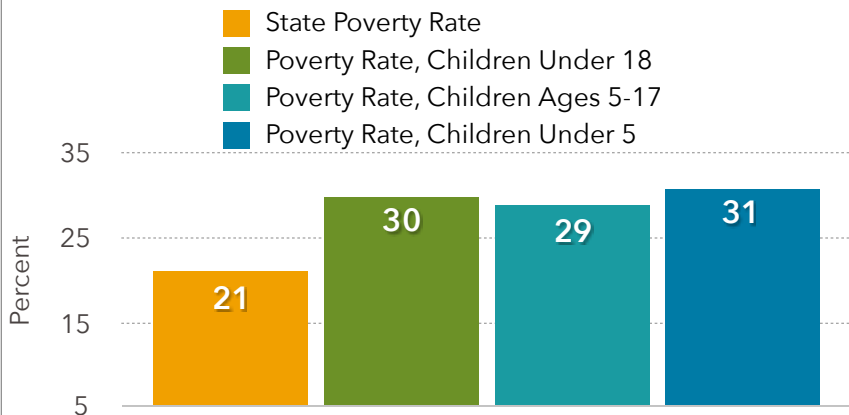
# MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 2,989,192 | Population of Children Under 18: 711,595

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

- Of the **2,910** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Mississippi, 63% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **400** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Mississippi in 2016, an increase of 28.2% from **312** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **5,486** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **1,554** or 28.33% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **46,583** grandparents in Mississippi had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,705** 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, Mississippi had 31,213 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,651 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 10,179 victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi, a rate of 14.1 per 1,000 children, an increase of 16.6% from 2015. Of these children, 76.8% were neglected, 15.0% were physically abused, and 9.9% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 16.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>



### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

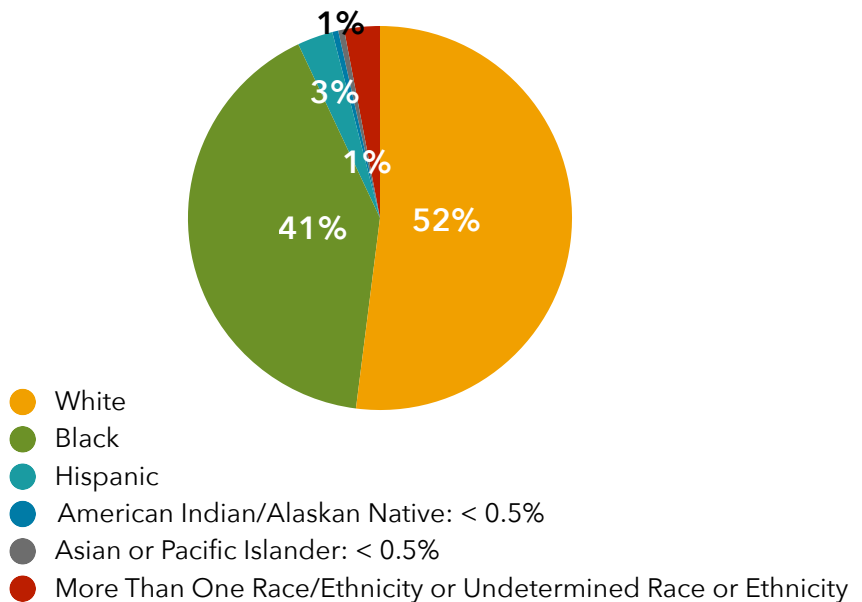
- In 2015, Mississippi had a monthly average of 20,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 17,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 18,300 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Mississippi, a family of three could make no more than \$34,999 at application, which is equivalent to 73% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Mississippi had 9,444 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 24,255 children in Mississippi, a decrease of 8.4% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Mississippi made 5,717 home visits to 879 parents and children in 392 families, as well as enrolled 108 new parents and children to the program.<sup>65</sup>

• In 2016, there were 41 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Mississippi.<sup>11</sup>

• 5,486 children in Mississippi lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,773 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

• The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 14.9% 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 Mississippi decreased from 13,972 in 2015 to 11,777 in 2016, a 18.6% change. There was a 5,924 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 17.6% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>

• In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 7 received

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

- \$71,569,077 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Mississippi, including 9.3% on basic assistance, 1.4% on child care, and 10.6% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$18,688,142 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Mississippi, serving 84,867 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 26.3% of households in Mississippi 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

- 442,086 children in Mississippi were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 1.3% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Mississippi had 88,531 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 1.6% from 2015, when 87,105 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Mississippi had 42,049 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 4,345 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Mississippi in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 325 infants under age 1 died in Mississippi in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Mississippi was 16.1 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 62.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 35 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 9,804 adults and adolescents and 58 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Mississippi.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Mississippi reached \$141,709,137.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

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

- 16,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Mississippi were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 53,000 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 Mississippi aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 19 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 48 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi in 2016, compared to 31 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 3,812 children younger than 18 were arrested in Mississippi in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 131 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 243 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi 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, Mississippi's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Mississippi was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Mississippi spent \$146,055,452 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$73,760,705 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>
- Mississippi received \$20,585,769 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$8,563,073 for maintenance payments and \$12,022,696 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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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.

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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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