

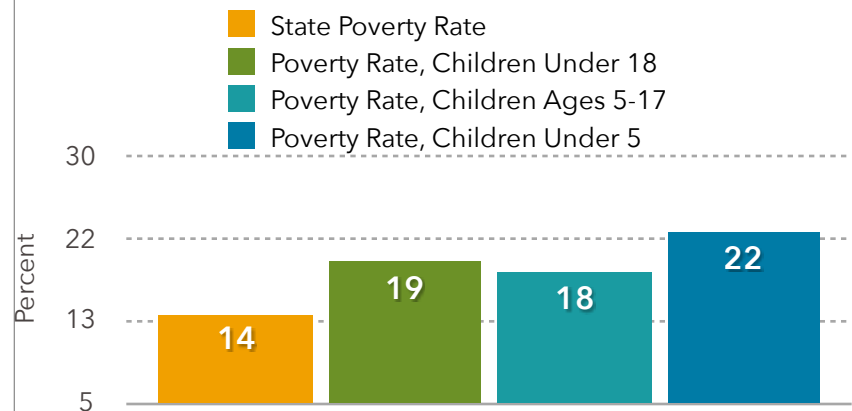
# MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 6,059,651 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,361,864

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

- Of the **6,924** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Missouri, 50% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **1,591** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Missouri in 2016, an increase of 17.2% from **1,357** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **12,408** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,584** or 20.83% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **57,905** grandparents in Missouri had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **3,310** 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, Missouri had 89,131 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 69,293 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 5,481 victims of abuse or neglect in Missouri, a rate of 4.0 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 3.8% from 2015. Of these children, 62.4% were neglected, 30.5% were physically abused, and 24.1% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 3.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>



## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

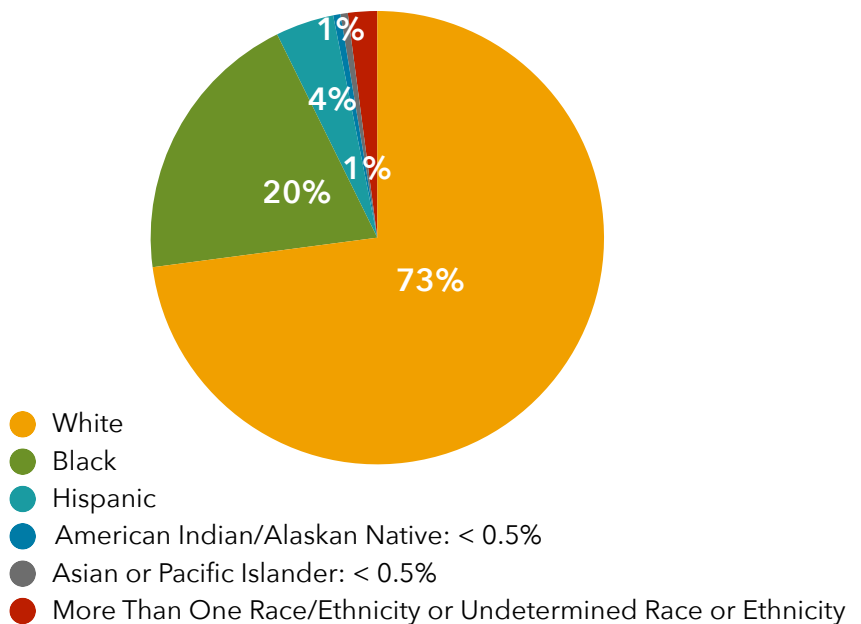
- In 2015, Missouri had a monthly average of 36,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 34,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 35,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri, a family of three could make no more than \$27,720 at application, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Missouri had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 15,021 children in Missouri, a decrease of 11.2% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Missouri made 9,251 home visits to 1,257 parents and children in 609 families, as well as enrolled 596 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2016, there were 29 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Missouri.<sup>11</sup>

- 12,408 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 12,160 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 2% 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 Missouri decreased from 59,066 in 2015 to 38,473 in 2016, a 53.5% change. There was a 16,601 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 48.1% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 19 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$355,223,704 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Missouri, including 8.3% on basic assistance, 8.5% on child care, 0.6% on transportation, and 29.7% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$29,390,981 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Missouri, serving 127,551 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 18.6% of households in Missouri 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

- 592,231 children in Missouri were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 2.3% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Missouri had 87,790 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 24.8% from 2015, when 78,344 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Missouri had 87,432 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 6,473 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Missouri in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 488 infants under age 1 died in Missouri in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Missouri was 10.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 47.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 25 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 14,233 adults and adolescents and 68 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Missouri.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Missouri reached \$440,176,029.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 580 children in Missouri aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Missouri were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 69,000 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 12 reports of children in Missouri aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 61 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 97 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Missouri in 2016, compared to 89 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 19,416 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 966 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 948 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri 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, Missouri's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$30,092,894. The most utilized service in Missouri was Case Management totaling \$15,236,253.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Missouri spent \$520,529,129 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$267,167,438 was from federal funds and \$253,361,691 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$267,167,438 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.0% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 14.8% was from Medicaid, 11.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 27.8% was from TANF, and 4.7% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Missouri received \$60,374,858 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$20,033,918 for maintenance payments and \$40,340,940 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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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>.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 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](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table).
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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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