

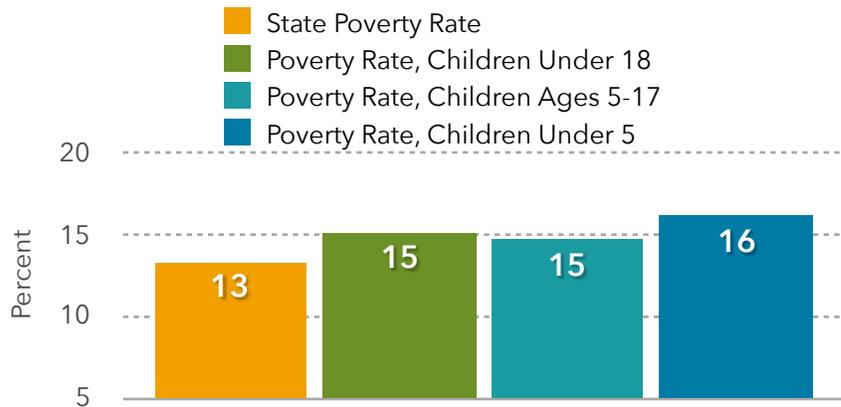
# MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 1,023,391 | Population of Children Under 18: 224,160

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

- Of the **1,558** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Montana, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **260** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Montana in 2016, a decrease of 16.1% from **310** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **3,366** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **633** or 18.81% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **7,193** grandparents in Montana had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,321** 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, Montana had 17,311 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 9,555 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 3,116 victims of abuse or neglect in Montana, a rate of 13.7 per 1,000 children, an increase of 66.8% from 2015. Of these children, 96.5% were neglected, 4.1% were physically abused, and 3.1% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 66.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2016, there were no child deaths resulting from abuse or



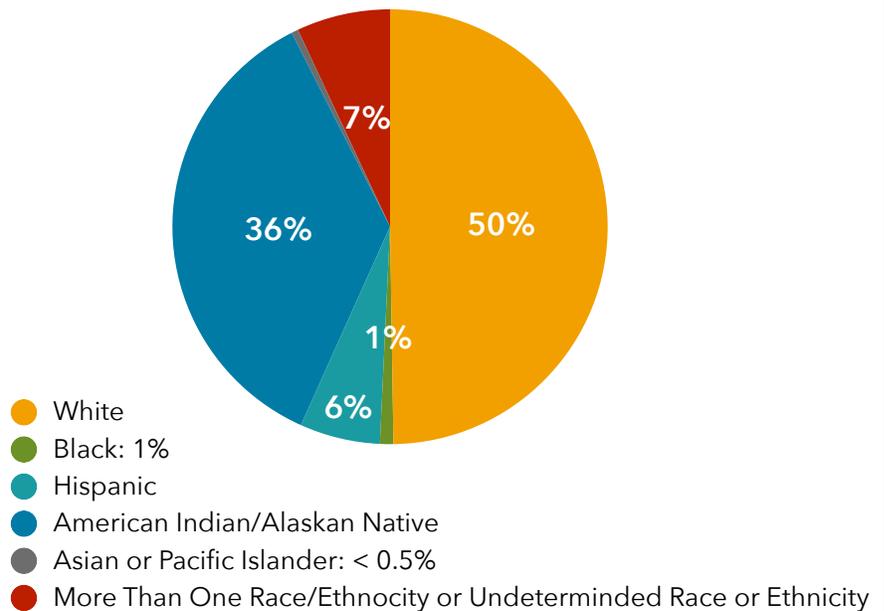
### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Montana had a monthly average of 3,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 3,900 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, a family of three could make no more than \$30,132 at application, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Montana had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 3,059 children in Montana, a decrease of 4.2% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Montana made 7,840 home visits to 1,605 parents and children in 861 families, as well as enrolled 1,178 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

neglect reported in Montana.<sup>11</sup>

- 3,366 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 2,807 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 19.9% 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 Montana increased from 7,113 in 2015 to 7,653 in 2016, a 7.1% change. There was a 3,230 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 8.3% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In Montana in 2015, 91,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.

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- \$41,363,477 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Montana, including 31.6% on basic assistance, 3.1% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 2.6% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 17 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$46,191,229 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Montana, including 41.0% on basic assistance, 0.9% on child care, 1.4% on transportation, and 4.4% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$5,559,063 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Montana, serving 18,296 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 18.8% of households in Montana 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

- 99,251 children in Montana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 5.1% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Montana had 44,688 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 1.3% from 2015, when 45,261 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Montana had 18,954 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 966 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Montana in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 72 infants under age 1 died in Montana in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Montana was 9.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 48.2 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 549 adults and adolescents and 3 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Montana reached \$49,737,028.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 56 children in Montana aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 4,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Montana were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 12,000 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 Montana aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 20 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 15 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Montana in 2016, compared to 22 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 4,263 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 78 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 171 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Montana 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, Montana's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$4,754,809. The most utilized service in Montana was Special Services for the Disabled totaling \$4,454,809.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Montana spent \$69,952,240 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$30,829,201 was from federal funds and \$39,123,039 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$30,829,201 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64.3% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 6.5% came from Social Services Block Grant, 14.9% was from TANF, and 9.7% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Montana received \$10,633,870 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$5,227,454 for maintenance payments and \$5,406,416 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.

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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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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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