

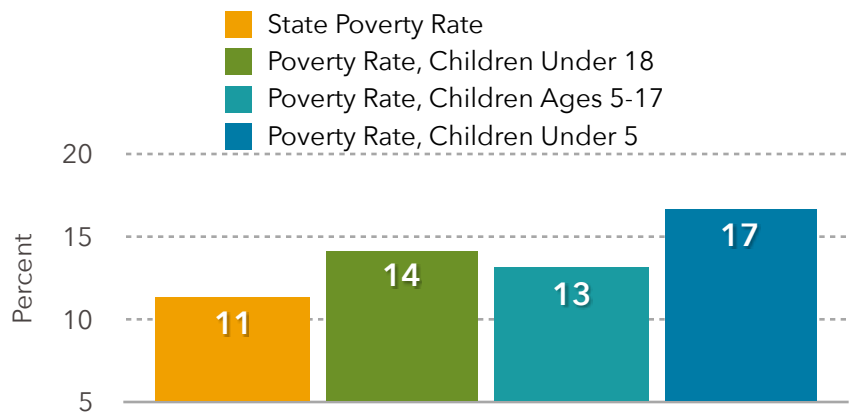
# NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 1,881,259 | Population of Children Under 18: 463,863

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

- Of the **2,174** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Nebraska, 61% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **483** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Nebraska in 2016, a decrease of 9.4% from **533** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **4,012** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **715** or 17.82% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **8,932** grandparents in Nebraska had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **1,199** 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, Nebraska had 32,605 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 11,806 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 2,783 victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska, a rate of 5.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 20.1% from 2015. Of these children, 86.0% were neglected, 12.0% were physically abused, and 6.4% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 20.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2016, there were 7 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect



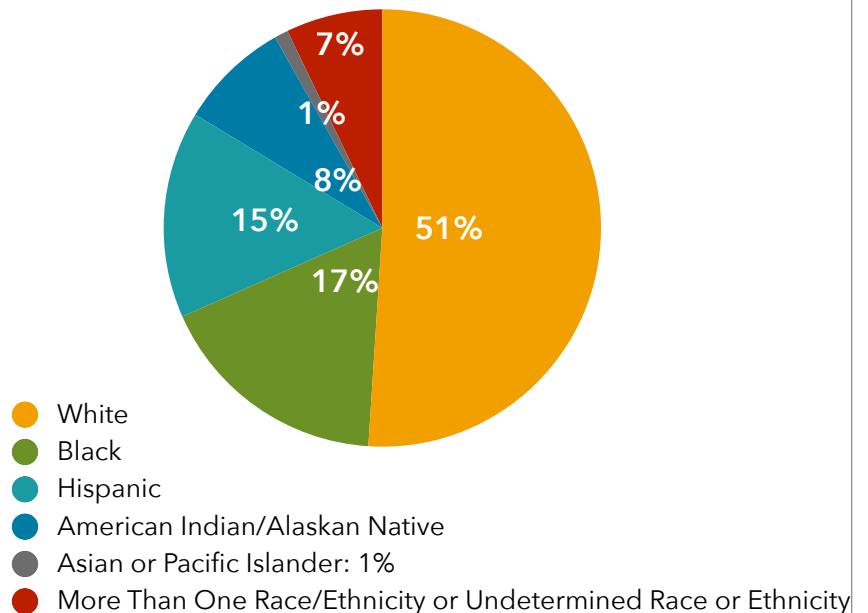
## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Nebraska had a monthly average of 11,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 11,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 12,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nebraska, a family of three could make no more than \$26,112 at application, which is equivalent to 40% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Nebraska had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 4,826 children in Nebraska, a decrease of 9.5% from 2014.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Nebraska made 5,605 home visits to 860 parents and children in 371 families, as well as enrolled 363 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

reported in Nebraska.<sup>11</sup>

- 4,012 children in Nebraska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 3,725 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 7.7% 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 Nebraska increased from 10,622 in 2015 to 10,718 in 2016, a 0.9% change. There was a 4,549 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 1.4% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In Nebraska in 2015, 174,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.<sup>21</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 20 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$93,228,295 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Nebraska, including 16.5% on basic assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$10,707,027 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nebraska, serving 38,125 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 18.3% of households in Nebraska 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

- 168,840 children in Nebraska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 2.2% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Nebraska had 55,041 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 11.5% from 2015, when 62,218 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Nebraska had 24,814 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 1,869 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nebraska in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 164 infants under age 1 died in Nebraska in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Nebraska was 10.0 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 39.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 22 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 2,080 adults and adolescents and 12 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nebraska.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Nebraska reached \$97,527,060.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 107 children in Nebraska aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 5,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Nebraska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 17,000 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 Nebraska aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 14 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 12 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nebraska in 2016, compared to 16 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 8,921 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nebraska in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 168 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 465 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nebraska 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, Nebraska's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$9,272,988. The most utilized service in Nebraska was Case Management totaling \$4,424,431.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Nebraska spent \$226,602,452 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$69,846,125 was from federal funds and \$156,756,327 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$69,846,125 in federal funds received for child welfare, 73.3% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 14.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 4.6% was from TANF, and 1.2% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Nebraska received \$27,447,097 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$7,241,085 for maintenance payments and \$20,206,012 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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