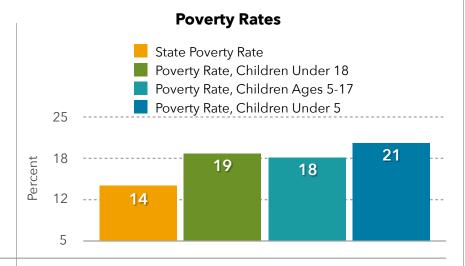
## NEVADA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 2,839,172 | Population of Children Under 18: 665,164

# ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,556 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Nevada, 67% were reunited with their parents or primary
   15 caretakers.
- 796 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Nevada in 2016, a decrease of 0.4% from
   799 in 2015.
- Of the 4,251 children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were 1,616 or 38.01% waiting to be adopted.
- In 2016, approximately
   23,891 grandparents in
   Nevada had the primary responsibility of caring for
   their grandchildren.
- 1,524 of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives
   while in care.



#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- •In 2016, Nevada had 33,598 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 15,592 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 4,891 victims of abuse or neglect in Nevada, a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 1.3% from 2015. Of these children, 80.3% were neglected, 26.2% were physically abused, and 5.5% were sexually abused.
- $_{\bullet}$  The number of child victims has decreased 1.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>
- •In 2016, there were 13 child deaths resulting from abuse or



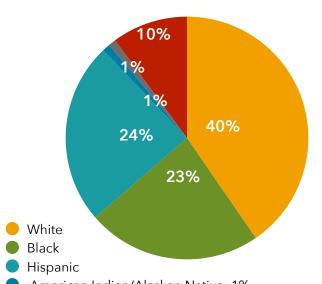
### CHILD CARE AND HEAD **START**

- In 2015, Nevada had a monthly average of 5,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 4,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 4,000 were recipients in 2013.28
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nevada, a family of three could make no more than \$26,124 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Nevada had 30 children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.30
- In 2016, Head Start served 3,072 children in Nevada, a decrease of 1.8% from 2015.
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Nevada made 3,505 home visits to 543 parents and children in 265 families, as well as enrolled 280 new parents and children to the program.64

neglect reported in Nevada. 11

- 4,251 children in Nevada lived apart from their families in out-ofhome care in 2016, compared with 4,489 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-ofhome care has decreased 5.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.13

#### Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 1%
- More Than One Race/Ethnicity or Undetermined Race or Ethnicity

#### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- •The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nevada decreased from 28,802 in 2015 to 24,980 in 2016, a 15.3% change. There was a 9,822 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 13.2% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- •In Nevada in 2015, 314,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.

21

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 22 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$110,673,411 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Nevada, including 11.2% on basic assistance and 2.2% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$16,871,095 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nevada, serving 70,467 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 22.4 of households in Nevada 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**

- 353,649 children in Nevada were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 0.32% from 2015.32
- In 2016, Nevada had 68,951 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 11.4% from 2015, when 61,908 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Nevada had 74,203 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 3,065 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nevada in 2016.35
- 207 infants under age 1 died in Nevada in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Nevada was 11.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 56.0 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 28 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 8,114 adults and adolescents and 29 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nevada.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Nevada reached \$238,241,309.<sup>39</sup>

#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

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

- $_{ullet}$  14,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Nevada were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 43,000 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 11 reports of children in Nevada 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

- 38 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nevada in 2016, compared to 30 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 8,441 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nevada in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,047 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 627 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nevada 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.<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 12-15children.<sup>53</sup>
- 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.<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. 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.<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, Nevada's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$14,201,244. The most utilized service in Nevada was Foster Care Services for Children totaling \$4,293,884.<sup>60</sup>

#### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEVADA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Nevada spent \$220,120,630 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$74,938,402 was from federal funds and \$145,182,228 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$74,938,402 in federal funds received for child welfare, 84.7% was from Title IV-E Foster
  Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and
  Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 6.0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF,
  and 3.7% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Nevada received \$37,837,029 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$14,153,233 for maintenance payments and \$23,683,796 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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