

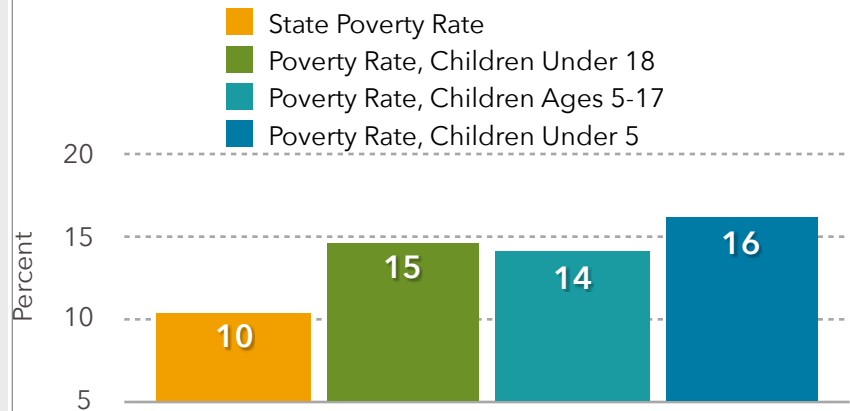
NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 8,915,456 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,961,260

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **4,506** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in New Jersey, 56% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **1,185** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in New Jersey in 2016, an increase of 10.5% from **39.33%** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **6,527** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,567** or 39.33% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **45,734** grandparents in New Jersey had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **2,509** children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, New Jersey had 56,014 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 56,014 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 8,264 victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey, a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 14.7% from 2015. Of these children, 79.7% were neglected, 13.5% were physically abused, and 10.0% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 14.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰
- In 2016, there were 21 child deaths resulting from abuse or



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

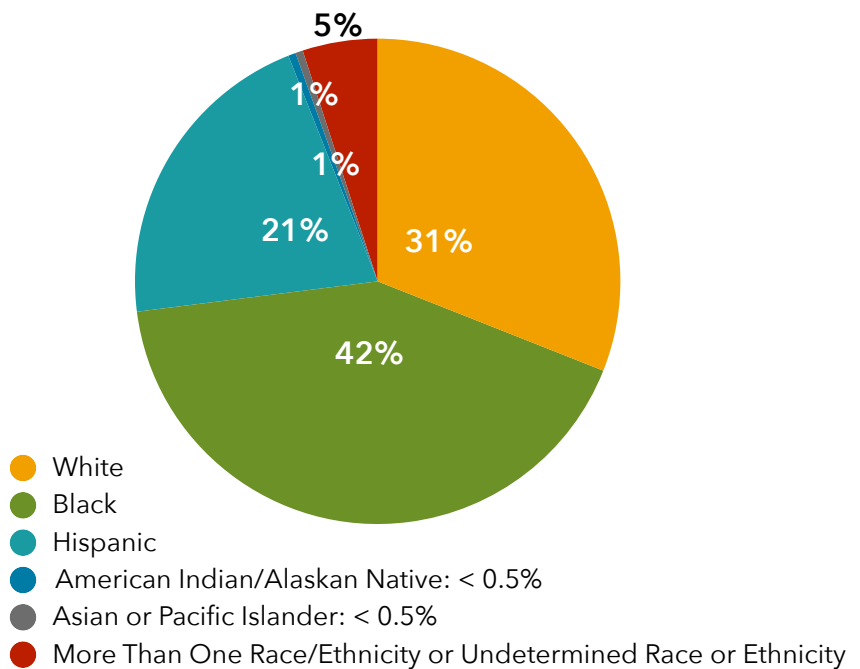
- In 2015, New Jersey had a monthly average of 48,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 44,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 41,000 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Jersey, a family of three could make no more than \$39,580 at application, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, New Jersey had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 16,053 children in New Jersey, an increase of 0.2% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in New Jersey made 76,628 home visits to 12,713 parents and children in 6,857 families, as well as enrolled 5,132 new parents and children to the program.

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neglect reported in New Jersey.¹¹

- 6,527 children in New Jersey lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 6,874 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 5.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.¹³

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 New Jersey decreased from 56,865 in 2015 to 41,756 in 2016, a 36.2% change. There was a 18,250 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 32.7% from 2015.²⁰

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 20 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$1,209,779,990 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in New Jersey, including 10.1% on basic assistance and 0.6% on transportation.²²
- \$37,058,451 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in New Jersey, serving 155,285 participants.²³
- 14.9% of households in New Jersey 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.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 751,344 children in New Jersey were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 0.55% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, New Jersey had 230,960 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 7.3% from 2014, when 215,191 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, New Jersey had 90,246 uninsured children.³⁴
- 8,272 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Jersey in 2016.³⁵
- 421 infants under age 1 died in New Jersey in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in New Jersey was 5.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 23.3 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 12 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 58,447 adults and adolescents and 810 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Jersey.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in New Jersey reached \$683,667,371.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 320 children in New Jersey aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 24,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in New Jersey were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴

- 86,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in New Jersey aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 24 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 50 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey in 2016, compared to 32 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 17,784 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Jersey in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,409 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 636 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Jersey 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.⁵²

- 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.⁵³
- 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.⁵⁵

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 \$49,999.⁵⁷
- 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.⁵⁸

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, New Jersey's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$40,649,806. The most utilized service in New Jersey was Case Management totaling \$20,694,460.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, New Jersey spent \$982,227,690 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$340,712,858 was from federal funds and \$641,514,832 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$340,712,858 in federal funds received for child welfare, 47.1% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 32.8% was from Medicaid, 8.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 3.6% was from TANF, and 5.1% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- New Jersey received \$96,946,379 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$29,442,298 for maintenance payments and \$67,504,081 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 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 percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
- 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.
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Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.

30 Ibid.

Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).

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