

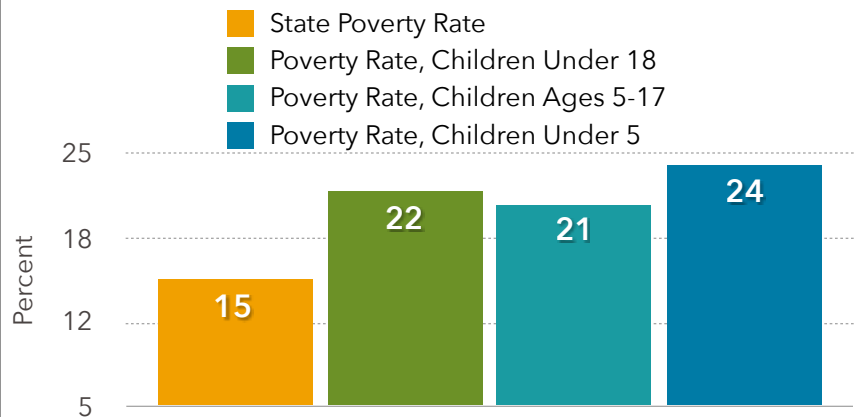
# NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 9,940,828 | Population of Children Under 18: 2,259,252

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

- Of the **5,129** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in North Carolina, 46% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **1,501** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in North Carolina in 2016, an increase of 14.5% from **1,311** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **10,425** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,936** or 28.16% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **91,588** grandparents in North Carolina had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **2,720** 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, North Carolina had 67,953 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 67,953 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 7,134 victims of abuse or neglect in North Carolina, a rate of 3.1 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 9.2% from 2015. Of these children, 52.9% were neglected, 25.1% were physically abused, and 19.3% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2016, there were 32 child deaths resulting from abuse or



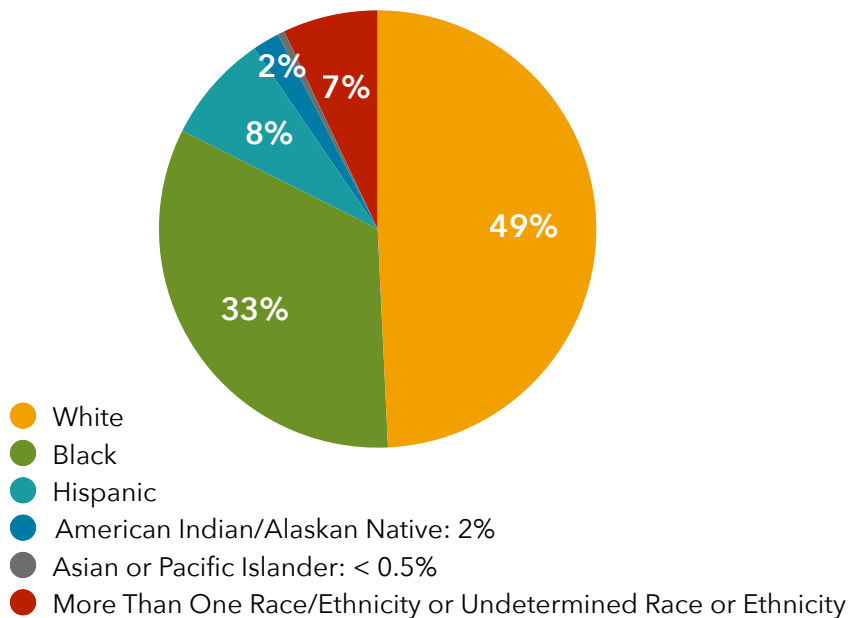
## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, North Carolina had a monthly average of 64,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 65,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 64,800 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$40,180 at application, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, North Carolina had 20,330 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 21,408 children in North Carolina, a decrease of 1.8% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in North Carolina made 6,870 home visits to 985 parents and children in 537 families, as well as enrolled 408 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

neglect reported in North Carolina.<sup>11</sup>

- 10,425 children in North Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 10,324 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 0.9% 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 North Carolina increased from 23,920 in 2015 to 28,682 in 2016, a 16.6% change. There was a 15,758 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 23.1% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 7 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$472,177,483 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in North Carolina, including 9.7% on basic assistance, 13.0% on child care, 0.6% on transportation, and 13.4% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$54,681,556 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in North Carolina, serving 241,288 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 22.6% of households in North Carolina 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

- 1,134,912 children in North Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 0.97% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, North Carolina had 256,446 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 9.3% from 2015, when 234,654 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, North Carolina had 126,126 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 11,127 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in North Carolina in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 870 infants under age 1 died in North Carolina in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in North Carolina was 10.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 42.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 24 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 24,539 adults and adolescents and 143 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in North Carolina reached \$582,486,663.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 450 children in North Carolina aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 40,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in North Carolina were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 132,000 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 15 reports of children in North Carolina aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 62 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 118 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in North Carolina in 2016, compared to 84 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 16,027 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Carolina in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 923 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 468 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina 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, North Carolina's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$45,237,853. The most utilized service in North Carolina was Protective Services for Adults totaling \$10,341,370.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, North Carolina spent \$561,406,915 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$253,372,479 was from federal funds and \$308,034,436 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$253,372,479 in federal funds received for child welfare, 45.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.0% was from Medicaid, 7.7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 36.9% was from TANF, and 1.2% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- North Carolina received \$61,130,547 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$25,224,575 for maintenance payments and \$35,905,972 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 percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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