

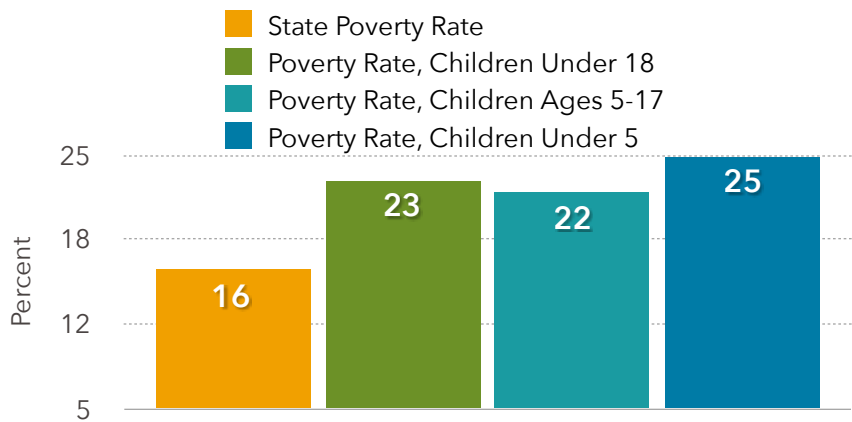
OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 3,875,589 | Population of Children Under 18: 945,261

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **6,211** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Oklahoma, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **2,487** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Oklahoma in 2016, an increase of 15.2% from **2,159** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **10,047** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **4,362** or 43.42% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **46,367** grandparents in Oklahoma had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **3,745** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Oklahoma had 80,871 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 34,625 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 14,308 victims of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma, a rate of 14.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 1.0% from 2015. Of these children, 79.1% were neglected, 14.6% were physically abused, and 4.5% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decrease of 1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

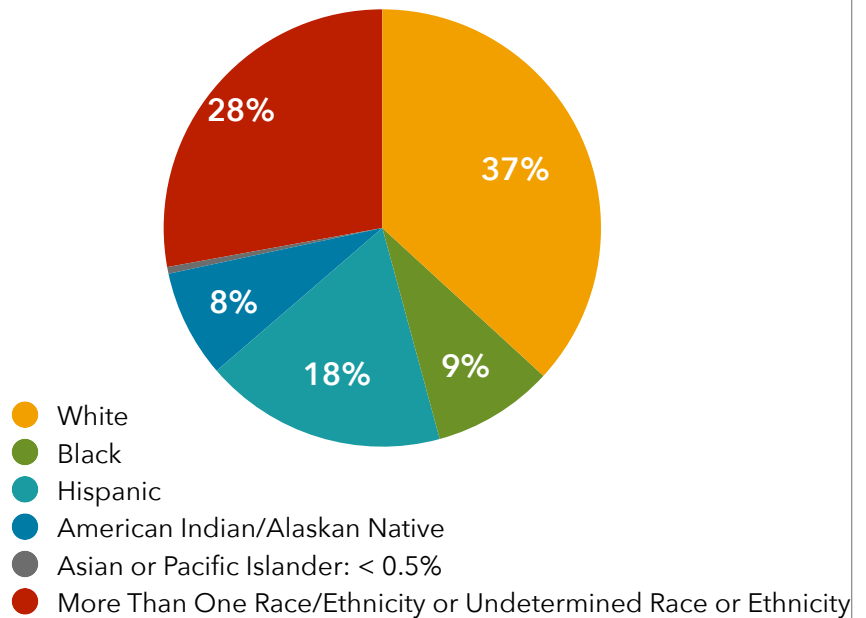


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Oklahoma had a monthly average of 24,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 24,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 24,300 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100 at application, which is equivalent to 64% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Oklahoma had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 14,396 children in Oklahoma, a decrease of 1.7% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Oklahoma made 17,449 home visits to 3,086 parents and children in 1,584 families, as well as enrolled 1,958 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were 31 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Oklahoma.¹¹
- 10,047 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 11,173 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 10.1% 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 Oklahoma increased from 15,802 in 2015 to 16,036 in 2016, a 1.5% change. There was a 7,180 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 0.7% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 8 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$168,677,122 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Oklahoma, including 10.5% on basic assistance, 25.2% on child care, and 1.1% on transportation.²²
- \$36,608,964 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Oklahoma, serving 110,725 participants.²³
- 22.6% of households in Oklahoma 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

- 531,214 children in Oklahoma were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 2.2% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Oklahoma had 187,971 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 1.5% from 2015 when 190,858 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Oklahoma had 81,357 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,110 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Oklahoma in 2016.³⁵
- 391 infants under age 1 died in Oklahoma in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Oklahoma was 15.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 64.2 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 35 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 6,539 adults and adolescents and 27 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Oklahoma reached \$266,976,223.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 322 children in Oklahoma aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Oklahoma were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴

- 66,000 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 Oklahoma aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 38 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 57 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oklahoma in 2016, compared to 50 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 9,236 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 449 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 552 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$19,064,568. The most utilized service in Oklahoma was Protective Services for Adults totaling \$7,428,838.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Oklahoma spent \$337,115,338 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$155,770,242 was from federal funds and \$181,345,096 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$155,770,242 in federal funds received for child welfare, 61.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 11.7% was from Medicaid, 16.8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 3.8% was from TANF, and 2.6% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Oklahoma received \$54,831,228 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$18,745,118 for maintenance payments and \$36,086,110 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.

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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.
- 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.

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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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- 51 Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.
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