

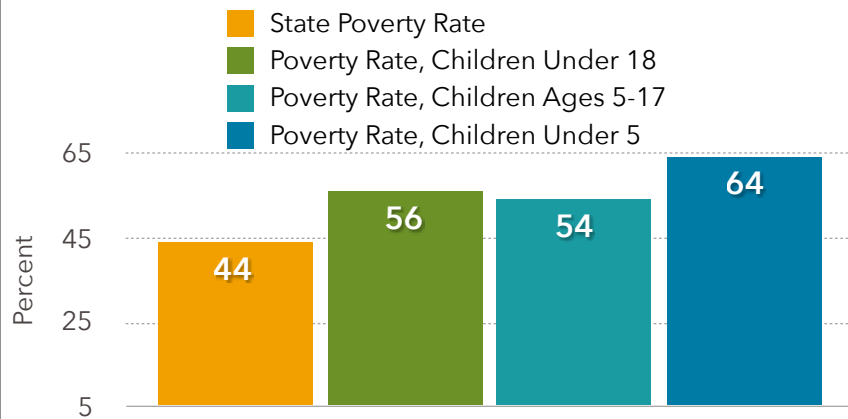
PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 3,529,385 | Population of Children Under 18: 692,187

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **253** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Puerto Rico, 53% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **No** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Puerto Rico in 2016, a decrease of 100% from **19** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **4,264** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **258** or 6.05% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **44,304** grandparents in Puerto Rico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had 17,643 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,643 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2015, there were 6,950 victims of abuse or neglect in Puerto Rico, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 children, a decrease 9.5% from 2014. Of these children, 61.9% were neglected, 27.1% were physically abused, and 2.2% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 32.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2011.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 7 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Puerto Rico.¹¹

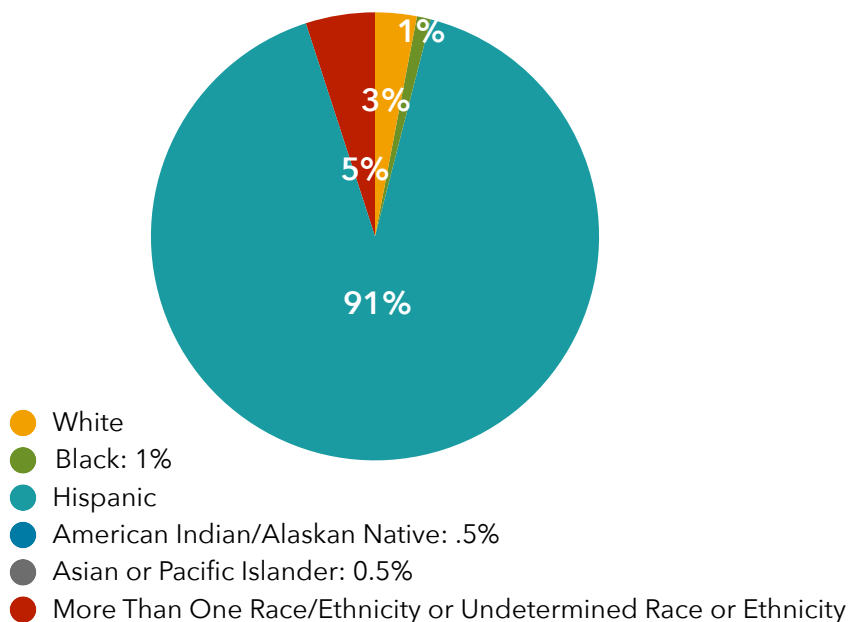


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Puerto Rico had a monthly average of 7,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 10,000 were recipients in 2013.²⁴
- In 2015, Head Start served 36,776 children in Puerto Rico, an increase of 0.8% from 2014.²⁵

- 4,264 children in Puerto Rico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,190 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.8% 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 Puerto Rico decreased from 29,733 in 2015 to 24,060 in 2016, a 23.6% change. There was a 8,834 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 22.7% from 2015.²⁰
- \$36,351,894 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Puerto Rico, serving 155,746 participants.²³

- 256,000 children in Puerto Rico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2016, Puerto Rico had 25,510 uninsured children.⁴⁷
- 2,885 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Puerto Rico in 2016.⁴⁸
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Puerto Rico was 18.1 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 57.0 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 34 births for girls ages 15 to 19.⁴⁹
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 34,919 adults and adolescents and 404 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.⁵⁰

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 18 children in Puerto Rico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁵¹
- 25,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Puerto Rico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁵²
- 76,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁵³

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.³⁵

- 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.³⁶
- 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.³⁸

Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.³⁹

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁴⁰
- 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.⁴¹

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Puerto Rico's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$8,160,000. The most utilized service in Puerto Rico was Counseling Services totaling \$5,059,200.⁴³

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Puerto Rico spent \$150,558,280 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$26,582,396 was from federal funds and \$123,975,884 was from state and local funds.⁴⁴
- In 2014, of the \$26,582,396 in federal funds received for child welfare, 13.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 26.7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 57.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 2.5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁵
- Puerto Rico received \$1,717,979 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$1,717,979 for maintenance payments and \$0 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁴⁶

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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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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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Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

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