

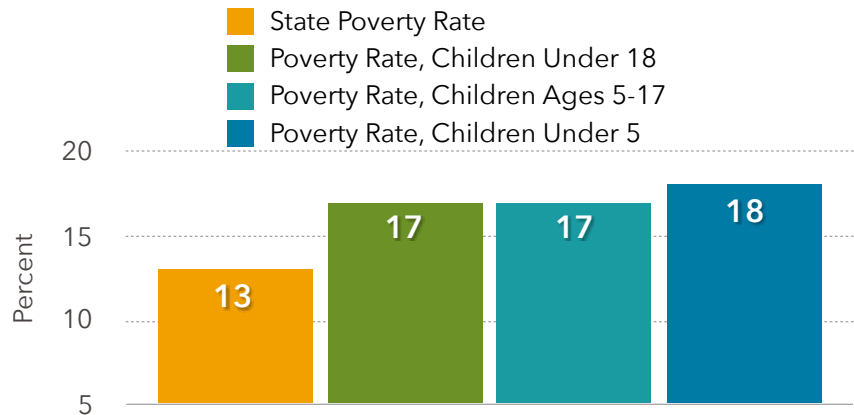
# RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 1,054,491 | Population of Children Under 18: 206,562

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

- Of the **1,214** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Rhode Island, 53% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **279** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Rhode Island in 2016, an increase of 32.2% from **211** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **1,654** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **296** or 17.9% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **7,065** grandparents in Rhode Island had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **701** 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, Rhode Island had 13,653 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,891 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 2,955 victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island, a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 7.2% from 2015. Of these children, 54.5% were neglected, 14.3% were physically abused, and 4.4% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 7.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>



### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

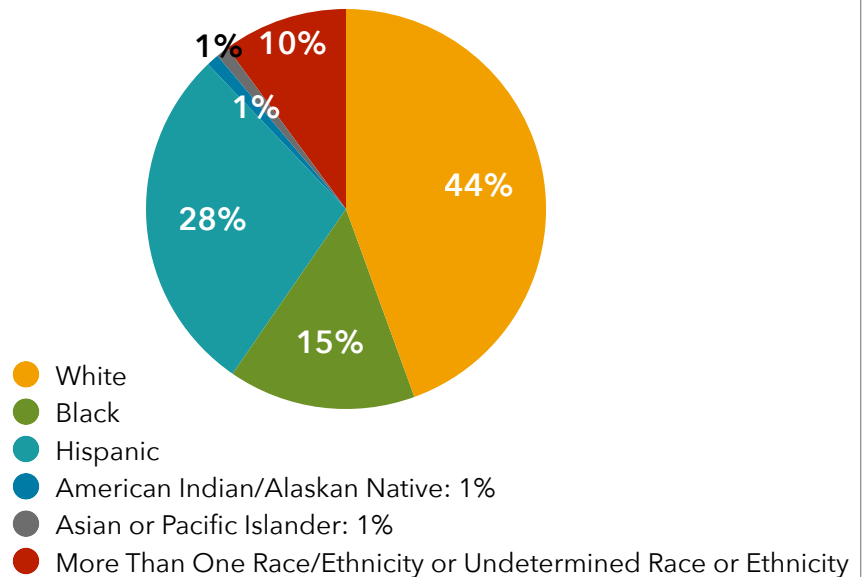
- In 2015, Rhode Island had a monthly average of 6,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 5,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 5,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Rhode Island, a family of three could make no more than \$36,162 at application, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Rhode Island had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 2,803 children in Rhode Island, a decrease of 3.1% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Rhode Island made 11,740 home visits to 2,212 parents and children in 1,184 families, as well as enrolled 1,386 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

• In 2016, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Rhode Island.<sup>11</sup>

• 1,654 children in Rhode Island lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 1,838 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

• The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 10% 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 Rhode Island decreased from 11,675 in 2015 to 9,542 in 2016, a 22.4% change. There was a 4,047 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 21.4% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>

• In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 36 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$165,968,185 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Rhode Island, including 13.6% on basic assistance, 9.5% on child care, and 1.0% on transportation.<sup>22</sup>
- \$6,053,808 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Rhode Island, serving 20,375 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 18.1% of households in Rhode Island 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

- 103,138 children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 3.4% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Rhode Island had 36,262 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 15.8% from 2014, when 31,324 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Rhode Island had 7,781 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 858 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Rhode Island in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 62 infants under age 1 died in Rhode Island in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Rhode Island was 7.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 21.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 14 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 3,194 adults and adolescents and 29 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Rhode Island reached \$108,354,005.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 155 children in Rhode Island aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 9,000 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 less than 10 reports of children in Rhode Island aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and less than 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- Less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Rhode Island in 2016, compared to less than 10 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 2,489 children younger than 18 were arrested in Rhode Island in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 109 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 198 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$4,912,802. The most utilized service in Rhode Island was Residential Treatment totaling \$1,171,936.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Rhode Island spent \$189,740,218 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$61,284,545 was from federal funds and \$128,455,673 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$61,284,545 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 36.0% was from Medicaid, 2.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15.3% was from TANF, and 7.8% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Rhode Island received \$13,469,470 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$4,272,703 for maintenance payments and \$9,196,767 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 percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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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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