

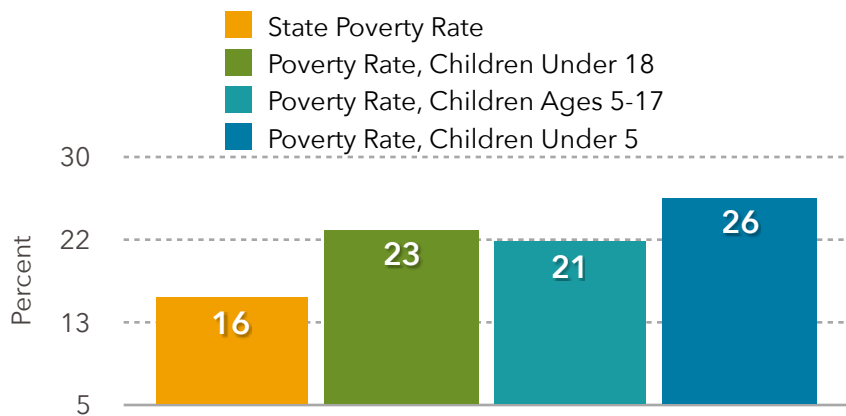
TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 6,548,009 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,476,765

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **5,558** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Tennessee, 50% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **1,224** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Tennessee in 2016, an increase of 10% from **1,113** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **8,333** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,541** or 30.5% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **71,523** grandparents in Tennessee had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **801** 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, Tennessee had 122,751 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 75,018 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 9,665 victims of abuse or neglect in Tennessee, a rate of 6.4 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 14.9% from 2015. Of these children, 26.2% were neglected, 60.7% were physically abused, and 27.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 14.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

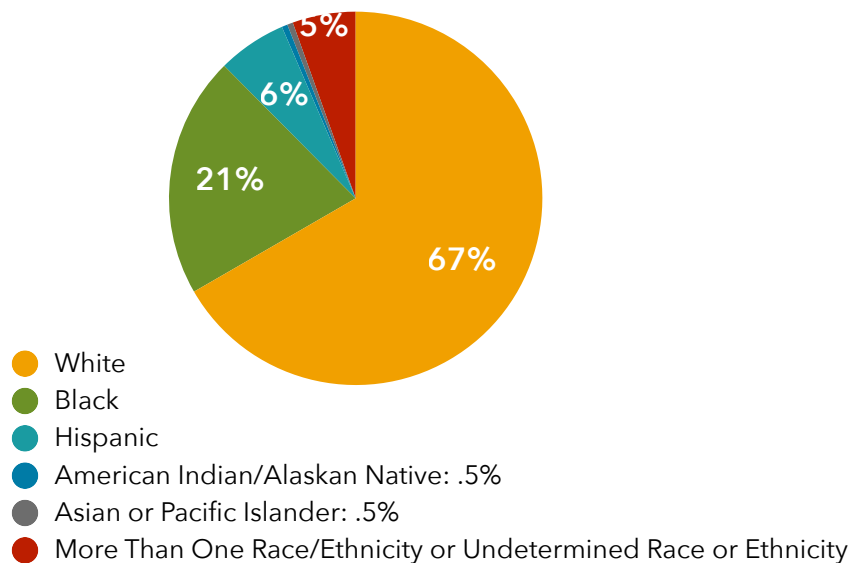


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Tennessee had a monthly average of 25,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 32,900 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 38,800 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Tennessee, a family of three could make no more than \$32,268 at application, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Tennessee had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 17,430 children in Tennessee, a decrease of 1.8% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Tennessee made 20,633 home visits to 2,893 parents and children in 1,490 families, as well as enrolled 1,463 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were 41 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Tennessee.¹¹
- 8,333 children in Tennessee lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 7,780 children in 2015. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 2,496 aged 5 or younger, and 1,766 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 7.1% 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 Tennessee decreased from 87,101 in 2015 to 68,975 in 2016, a 26.6% change. There was a 30,769 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 23.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 23 received

TANF assistance.²¹

- \$187,482,688 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Tennessee, including 16.6% on basic assistance and 0.7% on transportation.²²
- \$40,110,890 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Tennessee, serving 143,730 participants.²³
- 21.1% of households in Tennessee 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

- 873,842 children in Tennessee were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 6.6% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Tennessee had 105,990 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 0.21% from 2015, when 106,215 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Tennessee had 73,047 uninsured children.³⁴
- 7,431 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Tennessee in 2016.³⁵
- 597 infants under age 1 died in Tennessee in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Tennessee was 12.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 58.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 31 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 17,452 adults and adolescents and 70 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Tennessee.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Tennessee reached \$422,584,957.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

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

- 95,000 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 11 reports of children in Tennessee aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 55 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 95 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Tennessee in 2016, compared to 92 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 22,110 children younger than 18 were arrested in Tennessee in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,401 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 660 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Tennessee 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, Tennessee's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$30,167,609. The most utilized service in Tennessee was Case Management totaling \$7,163,396.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Tennessee spent \$680,267,700 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$309,990,900 was from federal funds and \$370,276,800 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$309,990,900 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 58.4% was from Medicaid, 7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 0.7% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Tennessee received \$45,636,200 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$29,095,300 for maintenance payments and \$16,540,900 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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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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- 17 Ibid.
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