

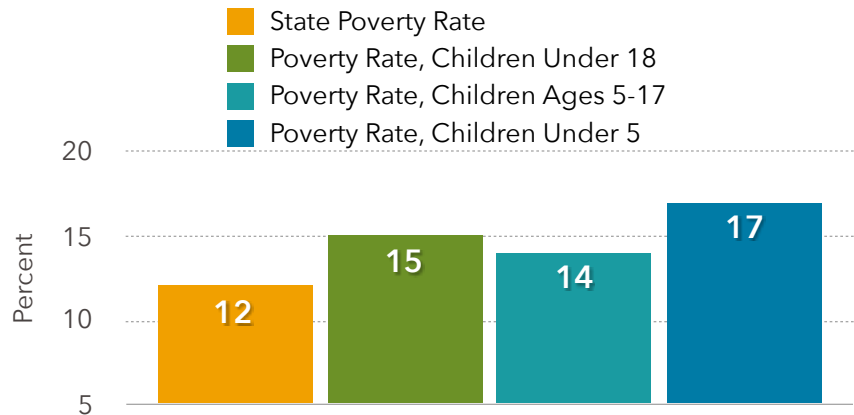
VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 626,249 | Population of Children Under 18: 116,117

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **751** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Vermont, 46% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **216** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Vermont in 2016, an increase of 14.3% from **189** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **1,323** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **387** or 29.3% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **3,007** grandparents in Vermont had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **458** 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, Vermont had 19,470 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,194 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 822 victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont, a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 10.7% from 2015. Of these children, 1.5% were neglected, 53.0% were physically abused, and 46.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 10.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

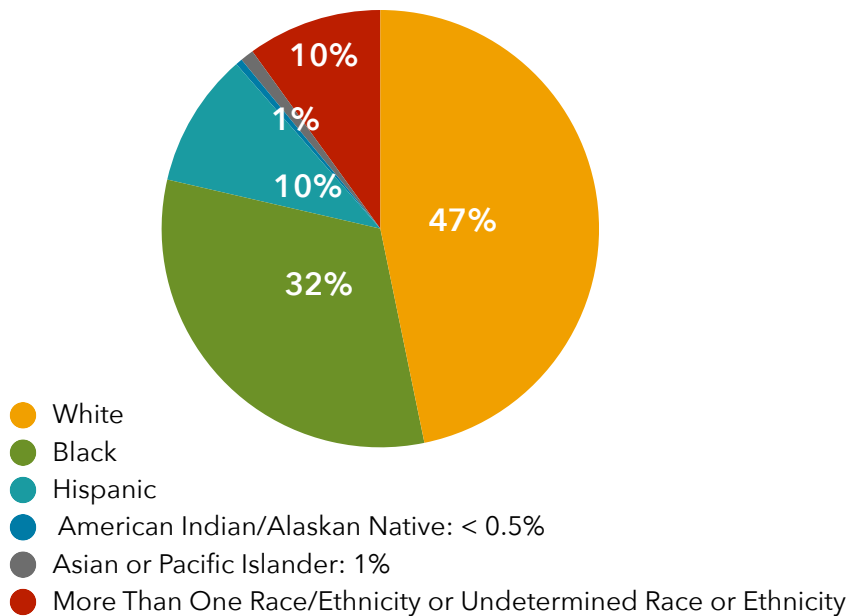


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Vermont had a monthly average of 4,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 4,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 4,400 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than \$39,576 at application, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Vermont had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 1,425 children in Vermont, a decrease of 5.2% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Vermont made 4,111 home visits to 568 parents and children in 328 families, as well as enrolled 301 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were no child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Vermont.¹¹
- 1,323 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 1,332 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 0.7% 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 Vermont decreased from 5,969 in 2015 to 5,622 in 2016, a 6.2% change. There was a 2,662 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 5.0% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 47 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$76,171,381 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Vermont, including 1.6% on basic assistance, 1.0% on child care, 0.3% on transportation, and 6.0% on non-assistance.²²
- \$4,319,573 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Vermont, serving 12,756 participants.²³
- 15.7% of households in Vermont 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

- 76,898 children in Vermont were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 2.9% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Vermont had 5,305 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 11.3% from 2015, when 4,766 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Vermont had 2,673 uninsured children.³⁴
- 394 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Vermont in 2016.³⁵
- 19 infants under age 1 died in Vermont in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Vermont was 3.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 19.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 12 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 575 adults and adolescents and 6 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Vermont.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Vermont reached \$38,109,065.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 66 children in Vermont aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 3,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Vermont were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴

- 7,000 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 no reports of children in Vermont aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and less than 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- Less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Vermont in 2016, similar to 2015.⁴⁸
- 425 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 13 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 27 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont 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, Vermont's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$3,226,000. The most utilized service in Vermont was Case Management totaling \$547,482.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Vermont spent \$71,142,576 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$51,804,232 was from federal funds and \$19,338,344 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$51,804,232 in federal funds received for child welfare, 35.3% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 43.7% was from Medicaid, 9.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 5.7% was from TANF, and 2.7% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Vermont received \$8,982,703 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$5,269,462 for maintenance payments and \$3,713,241 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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

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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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- 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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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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