

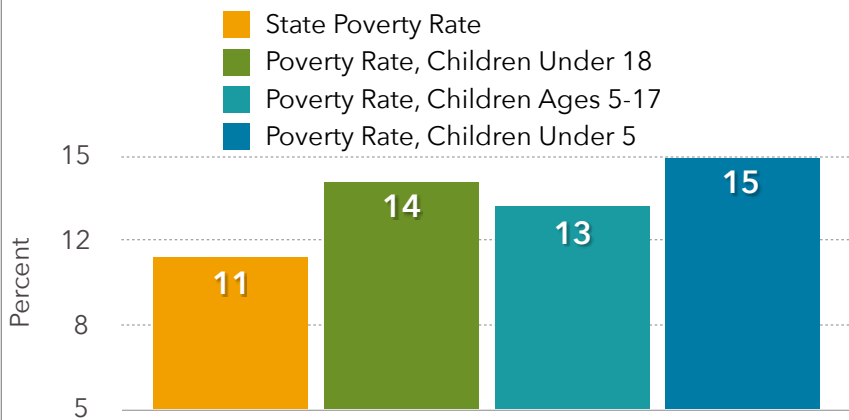
# WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 7,073,146 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,604,190

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

- Of the **5,293** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Washington, 62% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- **1,387** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Washington in 2016, a decrease of 6.5% from **1,484** in 2015.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the **10,959** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **3,278** or 29.9% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2016, approximately **43,246** grandparents in Washington had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- **3,687** 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, Washington had 93,629 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,327 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2016, there were 4,725 victims of abuse or neglect in Washington, a rate of 2.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 19.8% from 2015. Of these children, 77.9% were neglected, 21.7% were physically abused, and 10.0% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 19.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.<sup>10</sup>

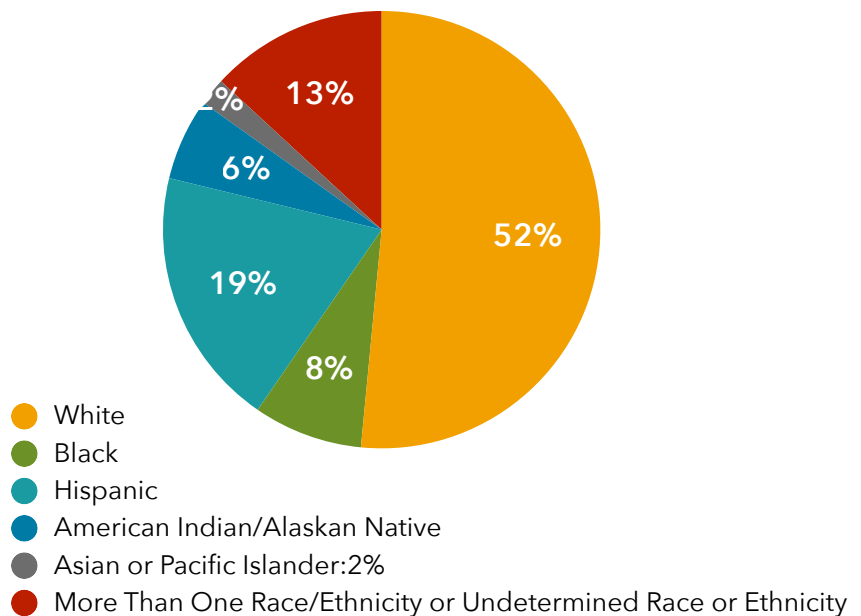


### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Washington had a monthly average of 44,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 42,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 41,600 were recipients in 2013.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Washington, a family of three could make no more than \$40,200 at application, which is equivalent to 56% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Washington had no children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2016, Head Start served 11,952 children in Washington, a decrease of 3.4% from 2015.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Washington made 16,127 home visits to 2,705 parents and children in 1,518 families, as well as enrolled 2,705 new parents and children to the program.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2016, there were 15 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Washington.<sup>11</sup>
- 10,959 children in Washington lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 10,665 children in 2015.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 2.8% 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 Washington decreased from 75,739 in 2015 to 67,034 in 2016, a 13% change. There was a 30,302 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 11.3% from 2015.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 25 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$898,868,936 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Washington, including 11.3% on basic assistance, 4.1% on child care, and 1.7% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$48,551,433 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Washington, serving 168,878 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- 19% of households in Washington 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

- 830,412 children in Washington were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 5.5% from 2015.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2016, Washington had 66,517 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 44.5% from 2015, when 46,037 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Washington had 68,361 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 5,792 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Washington in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 390 infants under age 1 died in Washington in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Washington was 7.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 33.9 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 18 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 14,672 adults and adolescents and 34 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Washington.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Washington reached \$976,839,152.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 203 children in Washington aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.<sup>42</sup>
- 25,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Washington were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>

- 84,000 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 Washington aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 58 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 49 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Washington in 2016, compared to 67 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 12,184 children younger than 18 were arrested in Washington in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 782 of the arrests in 2016.<sup>49</sup>
- 921 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Washington 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, Washington's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$34,467,826. The most utilized service in Washington was Foster Care Services for Children totaling \$19,194,070.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Washington spent \$527,402,898 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$225,783,080 was from federal funds and \$301,619,818 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2014, of the \$225,783,080 in federal funds received for child welfare, 51.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 6.1% was from Medicaid, 18.5% came from Social Services Block Grant, 12.5% was from TANF, and 5.1% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Washington received \$40,229,103 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$9,195,016 for maintenance payments and \$31,034,087 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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2 U.S. Census Bureau (2017). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>.

3 Ibid.

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System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 6, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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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: 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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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.
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- 34 U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). Types of Health Insurance Coverage By Age, Universe: Civilian noninstitutionalized population: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved January 31, 2018 from <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>.
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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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