

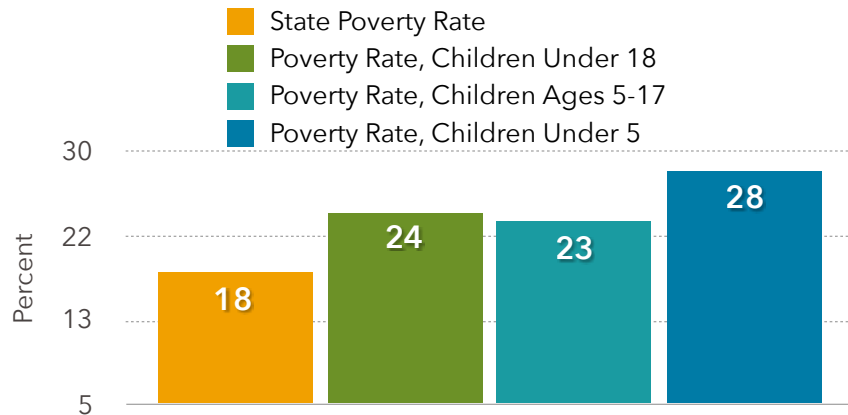
WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 1,846,092 | Population of Children Under 18: 368,682

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **3,467** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in West Virginia, 61% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **940** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in West Virginia in 2016, an increase of 5.3% from **893** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **5,973** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **2,147** or 36% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **24,485** grandparents in West Virginia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **984** 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, West Virginia had 40,191 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 24,096 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 5,938 victims of abuse or neglect in West Virginia, a rate of 15.8 per 1,000 children, an increase of 22.3% from 2015. Of these children, 42.7% were neglected, 77.9% were physically abused, and 4.3% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 22.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰
- In 2015, there were 9 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect



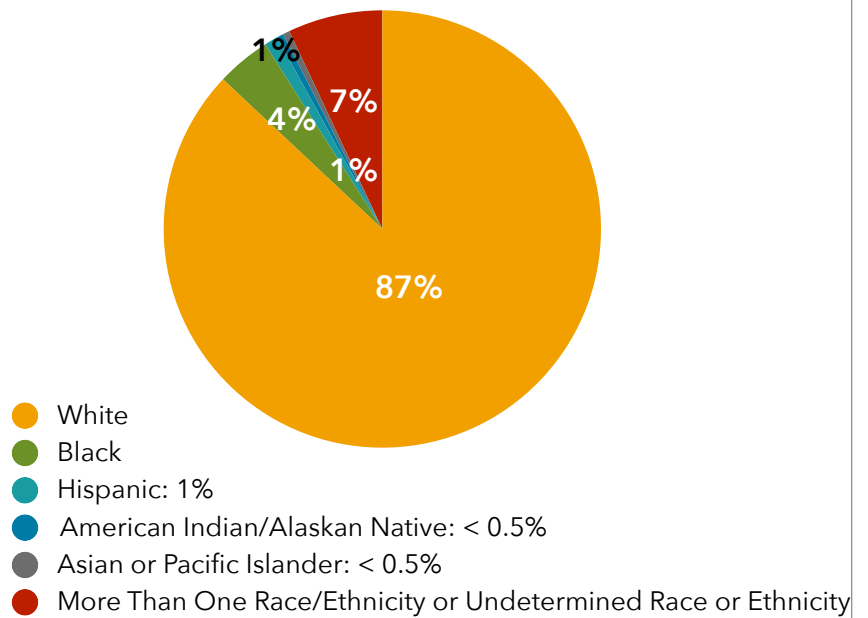
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, West Virginia had a monthly average of 8,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 7,300 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in West Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$29,688 at application, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, West Virginia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 8,078 children in West Virginia, a decrease of 0.7% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in West Virginia made 11,088 home visits to 3,378 parents and children in 1,735 families, as well as enrolled 1,882 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

In 2016, there were 20 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in West Virginia.¹¹

- 5,973 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,959 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 20.1% 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 West Virginia decreased from 16,139 in 2015 to 14,843 in 2016, a 8.7% change. There was a 7,250 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 6.1% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 16 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$10,414,313 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in West Virginia, including 1.4% on basic assistance, 9.8% on child care, and 12.6% on transportation.²²
- \$12,387,221 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in West Virginia, serving 40,391 participants.²³
- 20.8% of households in West Virginia 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

- 243,547 children in West Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 8.4% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, West Virginia had 48,187 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 43.5% from 2015, when 33,579 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, West Virginia had 12,673 uninsured children.³⁴
- 1,835 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in West Virginia in 2016.³⁵
- 139 infants under age 1 died in West Virginia in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in West Virginia was 12.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 61.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 32 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 2,035 adults and adolescents and 11 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in West Virginia reached \$99,567,256.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 71 children in West Virginia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 10,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in West Virginia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴

- 32,000 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 less than 10 reports of children in West Virginia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 11 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 18 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in West Virginia in 2016, compared to 13 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 1,050 children younger than 18 were arrested in West Virginia in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 48 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 567 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia 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, West Virginia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$9,272,429. The most utilized service in West Virginia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$5,020,529.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, West Virginia spent \$129,971,458 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$108,960,698 was from federal funds and \$21,010,760 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$108,960,698 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 11.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 13.4% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 9.4% was from TANF, and 1.3% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- West Virginia received \$46,853,301 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$36,992,246 for maintenance payments and \$9,861,055 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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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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7 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 percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table.
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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.

62 Ibid.

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