

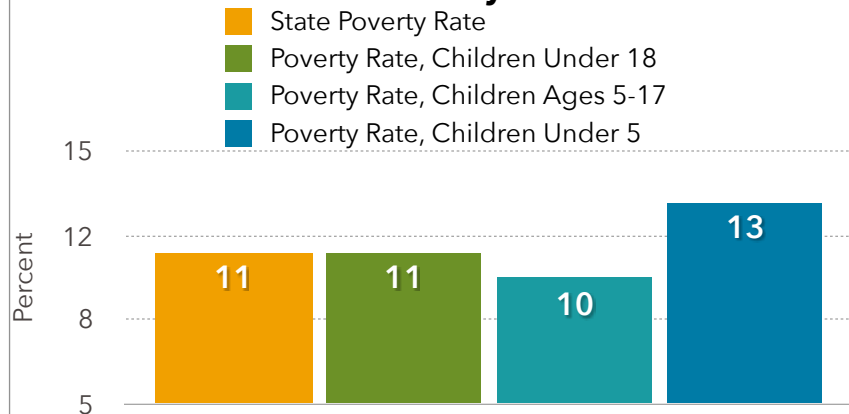
WYOMING'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 583,029 | Population of Children Under 18: 138,300

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **1,018** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Wyoming, 68% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **89** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Wyoming in 2016, an increase of 20.1% from **74** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **993** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **61** or 6.1% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **4,429** grandparents in Wyoming had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **339** 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, Wyoming had 6,914 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,916 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 977 victims of abuse or neglect in Wyoming, a rate of 7.0 per 1,000 children, an increase of 0.9% from 2015. Of these children, 74.7% were neglected, 3.1% were physically abused, and 8.0% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 0.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

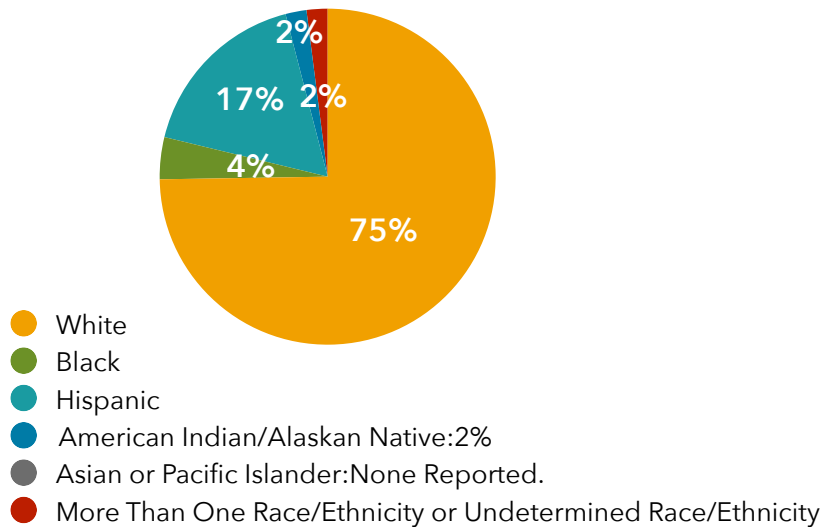
- In 2015, Wyoming had a monthly average of 3,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 3,900 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wyoming, a family of three could make no more than \$37,560 at application, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Wyoming had no children on it's waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 1,607 children in Wyoming, a decrease of 6.8% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Wyoming made 1,173 home visits to 182 parents and children in 92 families, as well as enrolled 99 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

• In 2016, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Wyoming.¹¹

• 993 children in Wyoming lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 1,082 children in 2015.¹²

• The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 8.2% 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 Wyoming increased from 675 in 2015 to 927 in 2016, a 27.2% change. There was a 428 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, an increase of 22.2% from 2015.²⁰

• In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 5 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$33,292,164 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Wyoming, including 2.4%.²²
- \$4,650,506 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wyoming, serving 10,783 participants.²³
- 16.9% of households in Wyoming 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

- 47,148 children in Wyoming were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, a decrease of 18.2% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Wyoming had 7,387 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 11.1% from 2014, when 6,649 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Wyoming had 10,124 uninsured children.³⁴
- 628 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wyoming in 2016.³⁵
- 37 infants under age 1 died in Wyoming in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Wyoming was 9.7 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 59.2 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 29 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 343 adults and adolescents and 2 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wyoming.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Wyoming reached \$26,915,476.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 12 children in Wyoming aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Wyoming were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 6,000 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 Wyoming 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 Wyoming in 2016, compared to 11 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 3,332 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wyoming in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 22 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 177 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wyoming 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, Wyoming's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$2,807,926. The most utilized service in Wyoming was Foster Care Services for Children totaling \$900,098.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Wyoming spent \$38,125,996 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$19,662,321 was from federal funds and \$18,463,675 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$19,662,321 in federal funds received for child welfare, 7.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 12.5% came from Social Services Block Grant, 76% was from TANF, and 1.1% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Wyoming received \$1,353,617 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$201,313 for maintenance payments and \$1,152,304 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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4 Ibid.

5 Ibid

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2016. Retrieved February 6, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2015.pdf>.

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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12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2017). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2016. Retrieved February 12, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

17 Ibid.

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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.
- 30 Ibid.
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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- 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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