

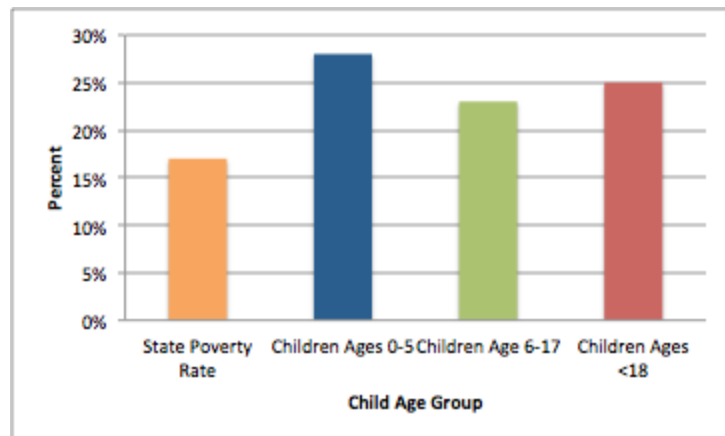
# ALABAMA’S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 4,887,871 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,094,883

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

- 3,382 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Alabama. Of the children exiting care in 2016, 36% were reunified with their primary caregiver or parent.<sup>15</sup>
- 504 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alabama in 2017.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 4,095 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,268 waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 61,567 grandparents in Alabama had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 509 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Alabama had 28,147 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 27,677 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 10,847 victims of abuse or neglect in Alabama, a rate of 9.9 per 1,000 children, an increase of 23.1% from 2013-2017.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased .7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.<sup>10</sup>

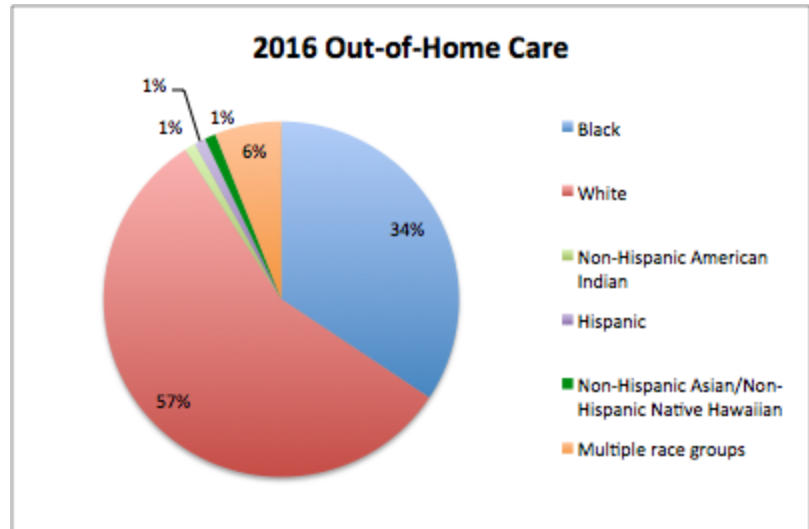


## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Alabama had a monthly average of 28,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 27,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 24,800 were recipients in 2015.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alabama, a family of three could make no more than \$26,544 at application, which is equivalent to 46% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2018, Alabama had 2,351 children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 17,423 children in Alabama, a decrease of 11.8% from 2016.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Alabama made 20,341 home visits to 4,444 participants in 1,967 households.<sup>65</sup>

- In 2017, there were 28 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alabama.<sup>11</sup>

- 5631 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 5,053 children in 2016.<sup>12</sup>



## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alabama decreased from 20,508 in 2017 to, 19,008 in 2018 a 7.31% change. There was a 8,505 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 24% from 2017.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 9 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$8,807,141 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Alabama. 100% of which was used on “Other Services” in Child Welfare.<sup>22</sup>

- \$65,004,861 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alabama, serving 120,605 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2017, Alabama distributed \$320,472,376 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.3% from 2016.<sup>24</sup>
- 16.5% of households in Alabama were food insecure in 2016, 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

- 599,631 children in Alabama were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, a decrease of 7.39% from 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2017, Alabama had 220,980 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 5.9% from 2016, when 208,629 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2016, Alabama had 27,000 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 6,096 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alabama in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 537 infants under age 1 died in Alabama in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alabama was 11.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 50.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 27 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 12,571 adults and adolescents and 80 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alabama.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Alabama reached \$234,480,306.<sup>39</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 331 children in Alabama aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>

- 13,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alabama were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 78,000 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 2017, there were less than 20 reports of children in Alabama aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 18 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alabama in 2017, compared to 89 in 2016.<sup>48</sup>
- 4707 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alabama in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 365 of the arrests in 2017.<sup>49</sup>
- 849 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama 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 2016, Alabama's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$24,453,248. The most utilized service in Alabama was "Other services" for Children totaling \$20,398,163.<sup>60</sup>

### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Alabama spent \$67,172,306 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$67,172,306 was from federal funds and \$0 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>
- In 2016, of the \$67,172,306 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$23,224,063 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$10,648,372 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$0 was from Medicaid, \$22,966,908 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$10,648,372 was from TANF, and \$1,525,822 came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
- Alabama received \$10,591,739 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$8,311,881 for maintenance payments and \$2,279,858 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

- 1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2018.
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- 8 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: 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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- 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.
- 10 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.
- 11 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.
- 12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2017. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>
- 13 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2017. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>
- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
- 14 Children In Out of Home Care, 2017 Statistics Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2019). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2017(Percent). Retrieved January 22, 2019 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/573,869,36,868,867/2638,2601,2600,2598,2603,2597,2602,1353/12992,12993>
- 15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). FY 2005 – FY 2017 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year. Retrieved February 1, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/fy2005-2014-foster-care-entries-exits>.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2017. Retrieved January 22, 2019 from [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table).
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- 21 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2018) A State by State Look at TANF: State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs Do Not Provide Adequate Safety Net for Poor Families: TANF Provides a Safety Net to Few Poor Families: Map TANF-to-poverty ratio: # of families receiving TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children (2015-2016). Retrieved April 16, 2018 from <https://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/state-fact-sheets-how-states-have-spent-federal-and-state-funds-under>
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- 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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
- 32 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2017, February 15). FY 2017 Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Retrieved January 31, 2018 from Medicaid.Gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2016-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>.  
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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=bkml>.
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- 61 Ibid.
- 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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- 63 Ibid.
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