

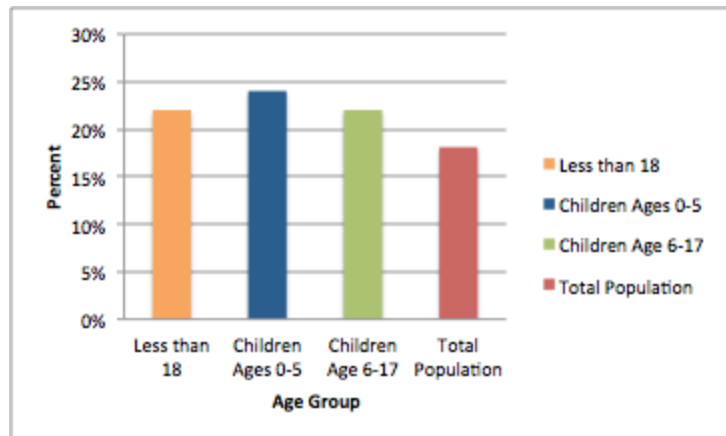
ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 3,013,825 | Population of Children Under 18: 708,249

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- 3,770 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Arkansas. Of the 3,405 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Arkansas, 42% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 4,298 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Arkansas in 2017, an increase of 17.6% from 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 4,776 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,330 waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 38,724 grandparents in Arkansas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 984 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

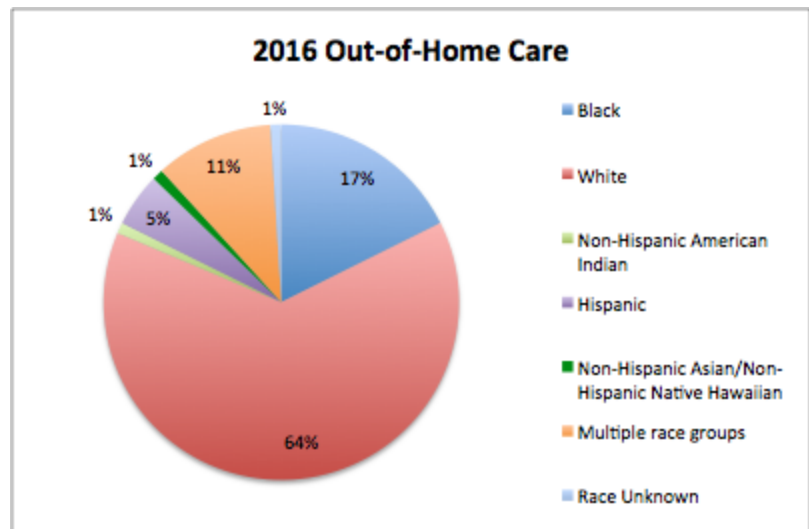
- In 2017, Arkansas had 56,983 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,095 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 9,334 victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 13.2 per 1,000 children, an decrease 10.0% from 2013. Of these children, 1,461 were medically neglected, 5,043 were neglected, 2,051 were physically abused, and 1,783 were sexually abused.⁹



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Arkansas had a monthly average of 65,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 6,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 7,400 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arkansas, a family of three could make no more than \$43,803 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Arkansas had 2,244 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017 Head Start served 12,215 children in Arkansas, an increase of 2.9% from 2016.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Arkansas made 31,228 home visits to 4,982 participants in 2,492 households.³²

- The number of child victims has decreased 2.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰
- In 2017, there were 37 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Arkansas.¹¹
- 4,776 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 4,880 children in 2016.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 2.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2017.¹³



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arkansas decreased from 8,501 in 2016 to 6,437 in 2018, a 24.2% change. There was a 2,995 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 21% from 2016.²⁰

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 5 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$10,342,731 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Arkansas with the top 3 services utilized being (1) Family preservation services, (2) Supportive services, And (3) Services for children & youth.²²
- \$38,274,613 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arkansas, serving 73,606 participants.²³
- In 2017, Arkansas distributed \$226,334,421 in child support funds, an decrease of 2.1% from 2016.²⁴
- 180,000 children in Arkansas lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2017, the unemployment rate in Arkansas was 3.7.²⁶
- 22.5% of children in Arkansas were food insecure in 2017, totaling 370,960 children; 5% above the national average.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 459,234 children in Arkansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 11.0% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Arkansas had 143,618 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 18.8% from 2016, when 120,863 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Arkansas had 33,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 3,361 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arkansas in 2016.³⁵
- 309 infants under age 1 died in Arkansas in 2016.³⁶

- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Arkansas was 14 births per 1,000 females. The rate for teens ages 18 to 19 was 66 births per 1000 females. This reflects a total rate of 35 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 5,412 adults and adolescents and 38 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.³⁸
- From 2016 to 2017, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 128,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol in the past year in Arkansas.³⁹
- From 2016 to 2017, approximately 10,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- From 2016 to 2017, approximately 19,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Arkansas reached \$205,529,321. ⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 202 children in Arkansas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 87% of high school students in Arkansas graduated on time at the end of the 2015-2016 year.⁴³
- 14,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Arkansas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017..⁴⁴
- 52,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 36% of young adults in Arkansas ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher in 2017.⁴⁶
- From 2016 to 2017, there were less than 10 reports of children in Arkansas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 65 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 42 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas in 2017, compared to 32 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 7,878 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arkansas in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 459 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 555 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas 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 2016, Arkansas's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$22,698,215. The most utilized service in Arkansas was Residential Treatment for Children totaling \$9,480,816.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Arkansas spent \$154,925,167 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$92,804,224 was from federal funds and \$62,120,943 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$92,804,224 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$62,862,921 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$6,761,984 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$886,472 was from Medicaid, \$10,630,618 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$10,342,731 was from TANF, and \$1,319,498 came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - Arkansas received \$6,981,304 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, utilized \$6,981,304 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training, and \$0.00 for Foster Care Maintenance. ⁶³
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- 1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.
- 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>.
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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.
- 17 Ibid.
- 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: 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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- 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.
- 33 Ibid.
- 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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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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