

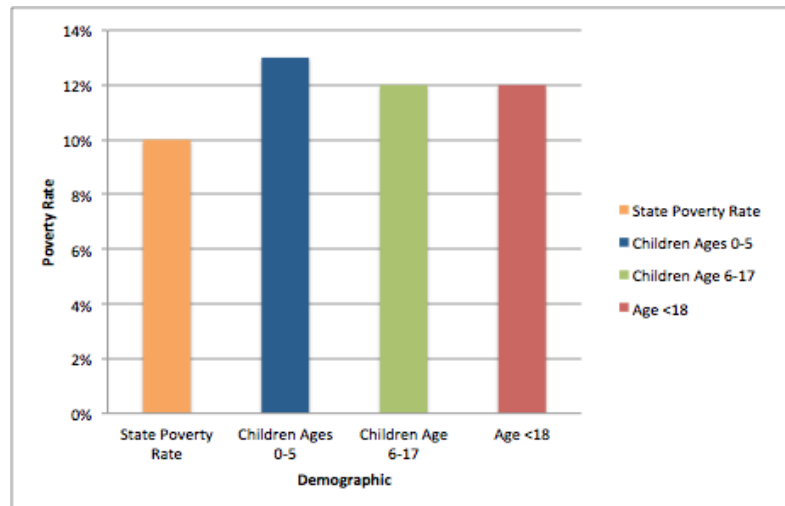
# COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 5,695,564 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,281,502

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

- 4,873 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Colorado. Of the 4,898 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Colorado, 38% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 948 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Colorado in 2017, an increase of 13% from 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 5,704 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 953 waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 35,739 grandparents in Colorado had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 1,482 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

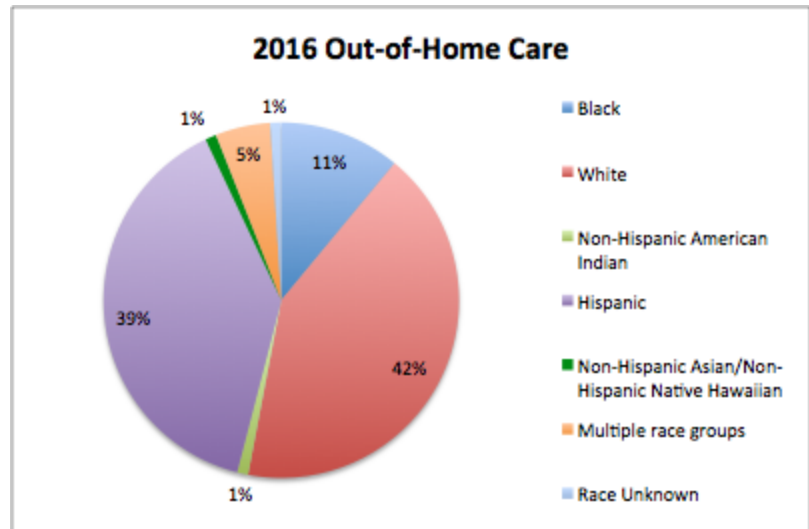
- In 2017, Colorado had 95,139 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 34,316 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 11,578 victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado, a rate of 9.2 per 1,000 children, an increase of .3% from 2016. Of these children, 9,461 were neglected, 1,299 were physically abused, and 1,068 were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 13.9% in comparison to the number of victims since 2013.<sup>10</sup>



### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Colorado had a monthly average of 22,400 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 22,900 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 16,900 were recipients in 2015.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2018, Colorado had 1,518 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 13,258 children in Colorado, a decrease of 5.2% from 2016.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Colorado made 33,265 home visits to 7,334 participants in 3,601 households.<sup>64</sup>

- In 2017, there were 35 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Colorado.<sup>11</sup>
- 5,704 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 5,733 children in 2016.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased .5% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.<sup>13</sup>



### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado decreased from 43,317 in 2016, to 37,539 in 2018, a 13% change. There was a 14,842 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 9.8% from 2016.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 26 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- \$0 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Colorado.<sup>22</sup>
- \$37,816,040 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Colorado, serving 85,258 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2017, Colorado distributed \$318,001,995 in child support funds, an decrease of 1% from 2016.<sup>24</sup>
- 390,00 children in Colorado lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>25</sup>
- In December of 2017, the unemployment rate in Colorado was 2.8. <sup>26</sup>
- 12% of households in Colorado 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

- 507,522 children in Colorado were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 1.5% from 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2017, Colorado had 176,426 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 1.5% from 2016, when 167,227 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2017, Colorado had 167,227 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 5,961 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Colorado in 2015.<sup>35</sup>
- 321 infants under age 1 died in Colorado in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Colorado was 8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 33 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 5,406 adults and adolescents and 34 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.<sup>38</sup>

- In 2016, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 284,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 17,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Colorado reached \$593,705,700. <sup>64</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 226 children in Colorado aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>
- 79% of high school students in Colorado graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.<sup>43</sup>
- 16,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Colorado were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.<sup>44</sup>
- 60,000 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>
- 51% of young adults in Colorado ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2017.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2017, there were 23 reports of children in Colorado aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 76 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 48 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Colorado in 2017, compared to 19 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 21,183 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 773 of the arrests in 2017.<sup>49</sup>
- 999 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado 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, Colorado's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$25,932,266. The most utilized service in Colorado was Foster Care Services–Children totaling \$18,464,965.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Colorado spent \$367,327,337 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$126,163,189 was from federal funds and \$241,164,147 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>

- In 2016, of the \$126,163,189 in federal funds received for child welfare, 25% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and ,1% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
  - Colorado received \$20,597,696 federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. <sup>63</sup>
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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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- 60 Rosinsky, K., & Williams, S. C. (2018, December). Child Welfare Financing Survey SFY 2016. Retrieved February 05, 2019, from [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016\\_ChildTrends\\_December2018.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CWFSReportSFY2016_ChildTrends_December2018.pdf)
- 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.
- 62 Ibid.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Health Resources & Services Administration. (2017). Home Visiting Program: State Factsheets. Retrieved March 28, 2018 online from: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting/home-visiting-program-state-fact-sheets>