

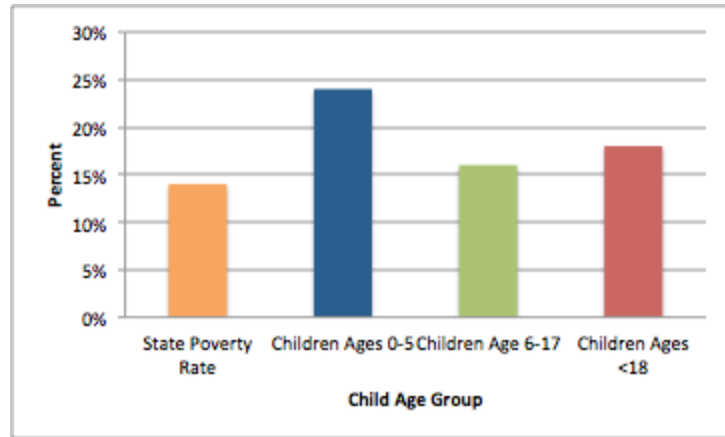
DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 967,171 | Population of Children Under 18: 206,007

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- 403 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Delaware. Of the 383 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Delaware, 36% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 108 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Delaware in 2017, an increase of 9.09% from 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 787 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 281 waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 8,979 grandparents in Delaware had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 96 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

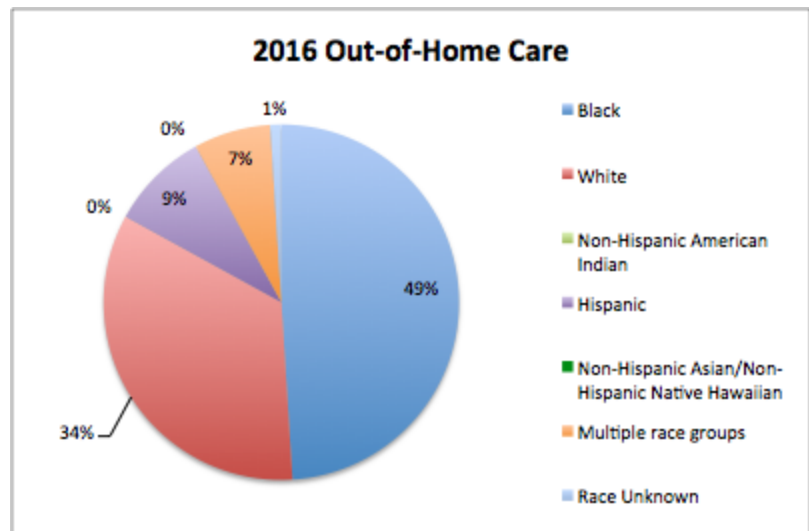
- In 2017, Delaware had 19,551 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,484 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 1,542 victims of abuse or neglect in Delaware, a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 children, an decrease of .2% from 2016. Of these children, 447 were neglected, 294 were physically abused, and 109 were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased .1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Delaware had a monthly average of 7,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 7,200 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Delaware, a family of three could make no more than \$40,848 at application, which is equivalent to 56% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Delaware had no children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 2,723 children in Delaware, a decrease of .37% from 2016.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Delaware made 5,546 home visits to 951 participants in 493 households.⁶⁵

- In 2017, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Delaware.¹¹
- 787 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 780 children in 2016.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 14.4% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.¹³



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware decreased from 12,014 in 2016, to 10,465 in 2018, a 12.9% change. There was a 3,776 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 11.2% from 2016.²⁰

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 38 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$495,520 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Delaware. Child Welfare providers utilized TANF dollars for Early care & education in 2016.²²
- \$7,578,795 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Delaware, serving 16,759 participants.²³
- In 2017, Delaware distributed \$74,674,436 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.7% from 2016.²⁴
- 64,000 children in Delaware 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 Delaware was 4.7.²⁶
- 17% of households in Delaware 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.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 107,185 children in Delaware were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, a decrease of .4% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Delaware had 13,890 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an decrease of 2.05% from 2016, when 14,181 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Delaware had 8,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 982 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Delaware in 2016.³⁵
- 87 infants under age 1 died in Delaware in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Delaware was 9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 35 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 19 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 4,577 adults and adolescents and 29 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Delaware.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 48,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol in Delaware.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 2,000 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 Delaware reached \$109,439,642. ⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 54 children in Delaware aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 85% of high school students in Delaware graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 3,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Delaware were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.⁴⁴
- 14,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 40% of young adults in Delaware ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were less than 10 reports of children in Delaware 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 13 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Delaware in 2017, compared to 10 in 2015.⁴⁸

- 3,360 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 284 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 162 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware 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 2017, Delaware's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$4,063,133. The most utilized service in Delaware was Day Care for Children totaling \$1,011,649.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Delaware spent \$67,401,536 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$11,478,270 was from federal funds and \$55,923,266 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$11,478,270 in federal funds received for child welfare, 10% 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, 0% was from Medicaid, 2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - Delaware received \$7,907,363 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$934,864 for maintenance payments and \$6,972,499 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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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.

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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.
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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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