

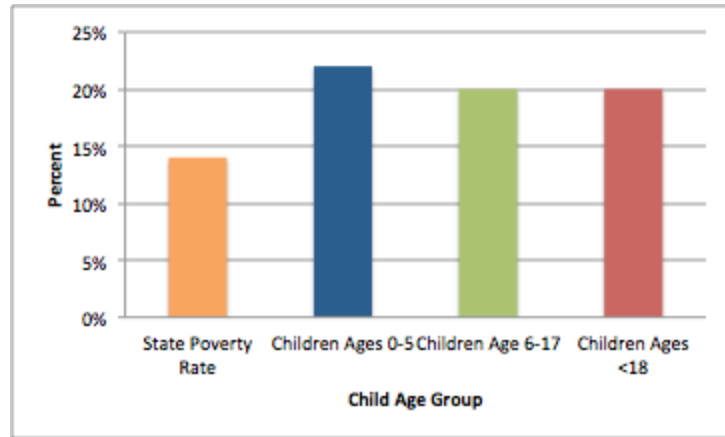
# FLORIDA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 21,299,325 | Population of Children Under 18: 4,259,865

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

- 15,094 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017. Of the 15,433 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Florida, 49% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 3,831 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Florida in 2017, an increase of 7.2% from 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 24,641 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 3,831 waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 378,068 grandchildren in Florida lived with their grandparents as their primary caregiver.<sup>18</sup>
- 10,474 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, Florida had 236,665 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 173,138 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 40,103 victims of abuse or neglect in Florida, a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 1.4% from 2016. Of these children, 23,145 were neglected, 3,256 were physically abused, and 2,773 were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 17.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.<sup>10</sup>

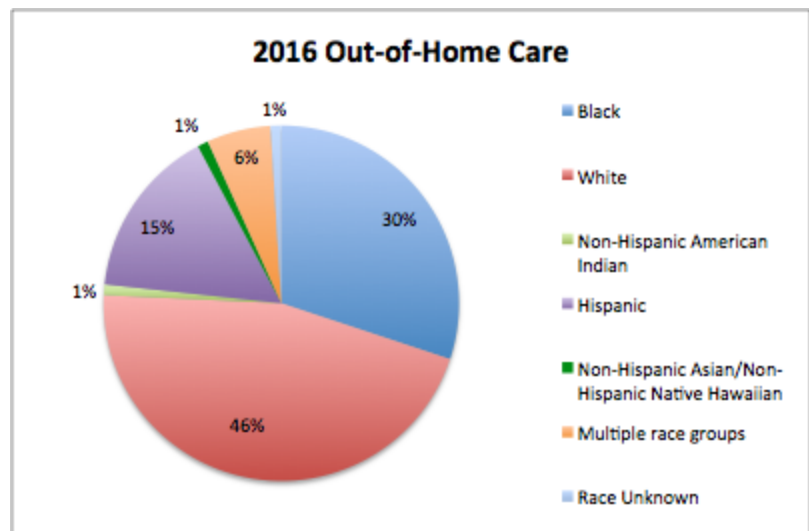


### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Iowa had a monthly average of 88,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 82,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 82,200 were recipients in 2015.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than \$30,630 at application, which is equivalent to 53% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2018, Florida had 29,553 children on it’s waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 49,699 children in Florida, a increase of 1.2% from 2016.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Iowa made 22,659 home visits to 3,573 participants in 1,983 households.<sup>65</sup>

- In 2017, there were 101 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Florida.<sup>11</sup>

- 24,641 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 23,810 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 Florida decreased from 79,040 in 2016, to 67,602 in 2018, a 14.5% change. There was a 42,510 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018.<sup>20</sup>

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 12 received TANF cash assistance.<sup>21</sup>

- \$188,245,254 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Florida. The most utilized services with TANF dollars were

1)Early care & education 2)Other child welfare services 3)Work, education, & training activities.<sup>22</sup>

- \$235,440,038 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Florida, serving 450,624 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2017, Florida distributed \$1,474,661,220 in child support funds, a decrease of .18% from 2016.<sup>24</sup>
- 1,601,000 children in Florida 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 2016, the unemployment rate in Florida was 4. <sup>26</sup>
- 19% of households in Florida 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

- 2,369,855 children in Florida were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, a decrease of 1.2% from 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2017, Florida had 465,631 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a increase of 7.2% from 2016, when 434,207 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2017, Florida had 325,000 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 19,589 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Florida in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 1,381 infants under age 1 died in Florida in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Florida was 8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 37 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 19 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 138,447 adults and adolescents and 1,571 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Florida.<sup>38</sup>

- In 2017, an estimated 29,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 908,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol in Florida.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 28,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 50,000 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 Florida reached \$1,246,526,068.<sup>64</sup>

## YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 963 children in Florida aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>
- 81% of high school students in Florida graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.<sup>43</sup>
- 74,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Florida were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.<sup>44</sup>
- 232,000 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>
- 42% of young adults in Florida ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher in 2017.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2017, there were 17 reports of children in Florida aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 109 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 205 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Florida in 2017, compared to 197 in 2016.<sup>48</sup>
- 55,359 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 3,829 of the arrests in 2017.<sup>49</sup>
- 2,853 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Florida 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 2014, Florida's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$100,886,880. The most utilized service in Florida was Special Services for Youth at risk totaling \$47,835,612.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Florida spent \$1,278,664,588 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$736,366,057 was from federal funds and \$542,298,531 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>

- In 2016, of the \$736,366,057 in federal funds received for child welfare, 26% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, <1% was from Medicaid, 13% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>
  - Florida received \$23,290,480 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>
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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. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017: 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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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>.

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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.

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Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

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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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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).
- 31 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2017). Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2016. Retrieved January 29, 2019 from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2016.pdf>.
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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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- 58 Ibid.
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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>