

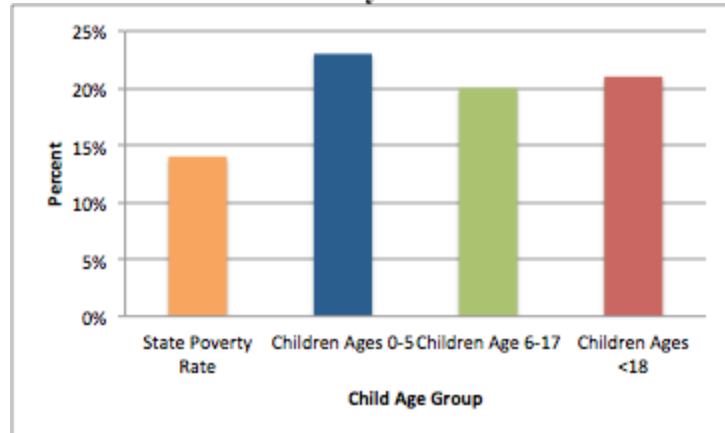
GEORGIA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 10,519,475 | Population of Children Under 18: 2,535,193

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,931 children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Georgia, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,401 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Georgia in 2017, an increase of 24.9% from 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 13,146 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 3,404 waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 107,863 grandparents in Georgia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 3,633 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, Georgia had 122,752 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 88,923 reports were referred for investigation.⁸

• In 2017, there were 10,487 victims of abuse or neglect in Georgia, a rate of 1.1 per 1,000 children, a decrease 51.5% from 2016. Of these children, 8,115 were neglected, 1,055 were physically abused, and 624 were sexually abused.⁹

• The number of child victims has decreased 45% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰



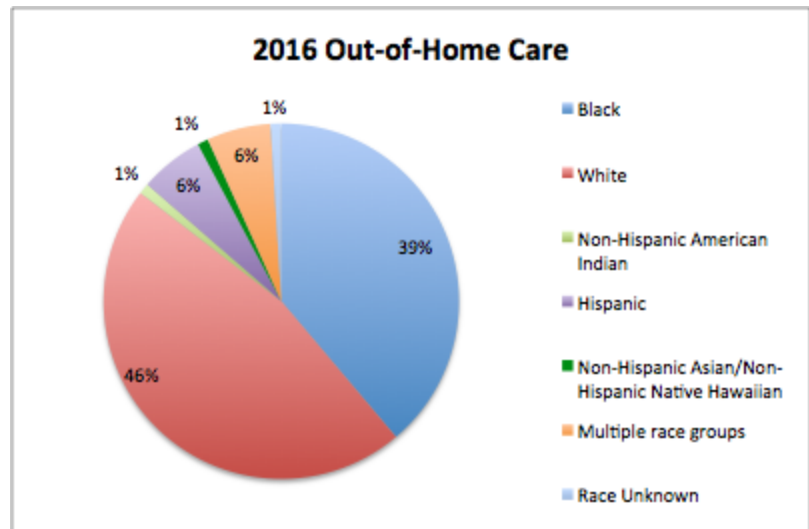
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Georgia had a monthly average of 50,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 55,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 58,900 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Georgia, a family of three could make no more than \$29,677 at application, which is equivalent to 50% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Georgia had a frozen intake for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 26,782 children in Georgia, a decrease of 7.99% from 2016.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Georgia made 137,279 home visits to 2,665 participants in 1,362 households⁶⁵

- In 2017, there were 94 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Georgia.¹¹

- 13,146 children in Georgia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 12,381 children in 2016.¹²

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.¹³



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Georgia decreased from 24,830 in 2016, to 21,151 in 2018, a 14.8% change. There was a 10,971 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 14.3% from 2016.²⁰

- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 5 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$201,862,696 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Georgia. Top 3 Service Categories utilized with TANF Dollars were 1) Other child welfare services 2) Family preservation services and 3) Child welfare services.²²
- \$102,700,135 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Georgia, serving 217,695 participants.²³
- In 2017, Georgia distributed \$695,453,588 in child support funds, an increase of .64% from 2016.²⁴
- 813,000 children in Georgia 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 Georgia was 4.7%.²⁶
- 17 of households in Georgia 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

- 1,316,220 children in Georgia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an decrease of 2.4% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Georgia had 237,011 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 2.13% from 2016, when 232,050 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Georgia had 163,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 12,704 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Georgia in 2016.³⁵
- 976 infants under age 1 died in Georgia in 2015.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Georgia was 10 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 44 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 24 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 51,532 adults and adolescents and 264 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Georgia.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 366,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol in Georgia.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 21,000 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 Georgia reached \$447,129,259.⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 534 children in Georgia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 79% of high school students in Georgia graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 48,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Georgia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2017.⁴⁴
- 447,000 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 Georgia ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were less than 20 reports of children in Georgia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 73 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 106 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Georgia in 2017, compared to 111 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 19,766 children younger than 18 were arrested in Georgia in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,206 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹

- 1,110 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Georgia 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, Georgia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$49,893,342. The most utilized service in Georgia was Special Services for Disabled totaling \$13,063,262.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Georgia spent \$712,243,067 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$359,861,953 was from federal funds and \$352,381,114 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$359,861,953 in federal funds received for child welfare, 18% 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, 1% came from Social Services Block Grant, 28% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - Georgia received \$81,714,086 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$38,891,196 for maintenance payments and \$42,822,890 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³
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- 4 Ibid.
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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.
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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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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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