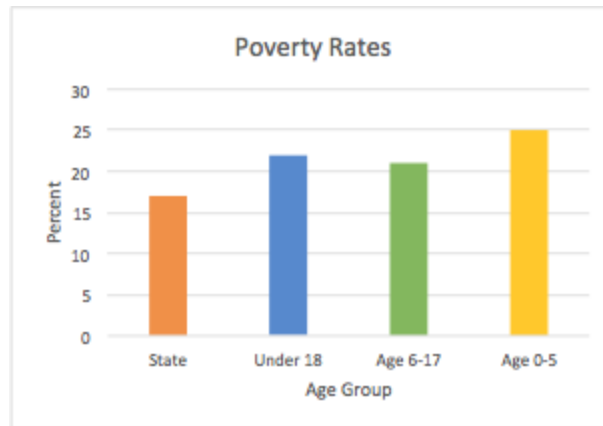


KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 4,454,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,010,539

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,412 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Kentucky, 34% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,128 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Kentucky in 2017, an increase of 2.2% from 1,104 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 8,089 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 2,563 or 31.7% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 55,525 grandparents in Kentucky had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 349 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Kentucky had 110,532 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 56,240 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 22,410 victims of abuse or neglect in Kentucky, a rate of 22.2 per 1,000 children, an increase of 12% from 2016. Of these children, 95.1% were neglected, 6.8% were physically abused, and 3.8% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 12% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

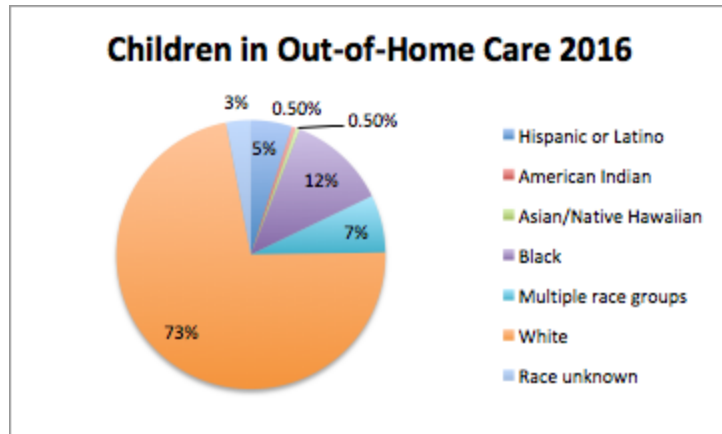


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Kentucky had a monthly average of 14,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 10,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 9,500 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky, a family of three could make no more than \$32,676 at application, which is equivalent to 55% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Kentucky had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 19,513 children in Kentucky, an increase of 21.2% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Kentucky made 55,588 home visits to 4,040 participants in 2,323 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 10 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Kentucky.¹¹

- 7,812 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 7,538 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.6% 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 Kentucky decreased from 44,682 in 2016 to 38,606 in 2018, a 13.6% change. There was a 19,722 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 13.3% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 24 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$269,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Kentucky, including 63% on basic assistance.²²

- \$46,402,109 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Kentucky, serving 101,743 participants.²³
- In 2017, Kentucky distributed \$367,103,526 in child support funds, a 3.8% change from 2014.²⁴
- 266,000 children in Kentucky 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 2016, the unemployment rate in Kentucky was 4.8. ²⁶
- 21% of households in Kentucky 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

- 545,985 children in Kentucky were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 1.5% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, Kentucky had 96,379 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 3.9% from 2015, when 92,728 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Kentucky had 32,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 5,042 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Kentucky in 2016.³⁵
- 370 infants under age 1 died in Kentucky in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Kentucky was 12 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 60 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 31 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 6,586 adults and adolescents and 39 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 121,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Kentucky.³⁹

- In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 9,000 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 Kentucky reached \$262,000,618.⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 661 children in Kentucky aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 89% of high school students in Kentucky graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 20,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in California were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 69,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 34.8% of young adults in Kentucky ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were 11 reports of children in Kentucky aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 34 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 73 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Kentucky in 2017, compared to 66 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 5,639 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 402 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 510 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky 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, Kentucky's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$22,026,998. The most utilized service in Kentucky was Protective Services for Children totaling \$11,959,642.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Kentucky spent \$560,030,302 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$212,340,939 was from federal funds and \$347,689,363 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$212,340,939 in federal funds received for child welfare, 16% 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, 4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 13% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - Kentucky received \$39,172,624 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$22,346,359 for maintenance payments and \$16,826,265 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

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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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