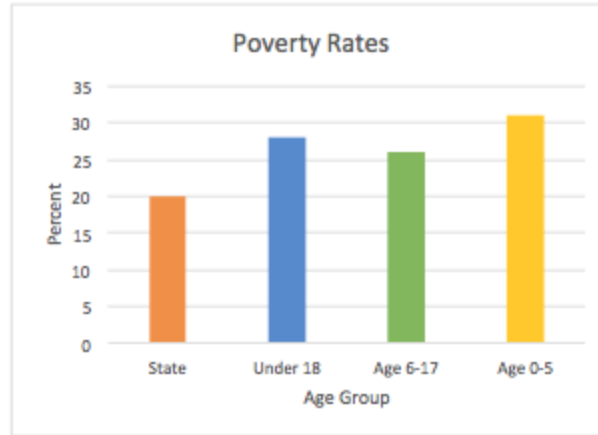# MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 6,052,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,347,506

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,196 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Maryland, 46% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.[15]
- 348 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Maryland in 2017, a decrease of 3.6% from 361 in 2016.[16]
- Of the 3,923 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 481 or 12.3% waiting to be adopted.[17]
- In 2017, approximately 46,840 grandparents in Maryland had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.[18]
- 1,418 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, Maryland had 53,277 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 22,037 reports were referred for investigation.[8]

- In 2017, there were 7,578 victims of abuse or neglect in Maryland, a rate of 5.6 per 1,000 children, an increase of 8.4% from 2016. Of these children, 60.7% were neglected, 22.3% were physically abused, and 23.4% were sexually abused.[9]

- The number of child victims has increased 8.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.[10]
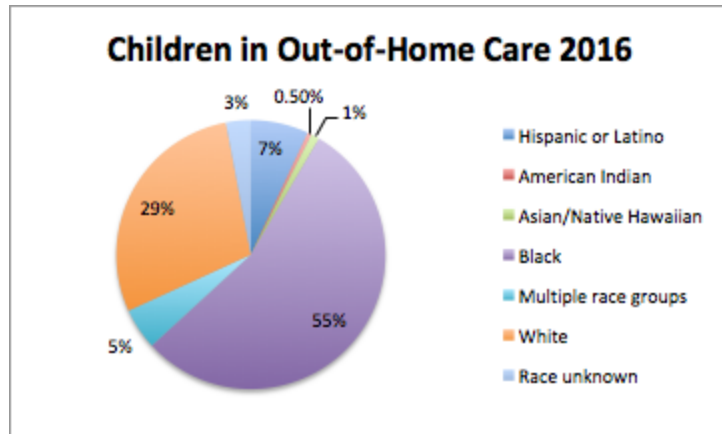
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Maryland had a monthly average of 14,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 17,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 18,300 were recipients in 2014.[28]

- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland, a family of three could make no more than $29,990 at application, which is equivalent to 32% of the state's median income.[29]

- As of early 2018, Maryland had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance. [30]

- In 2017, Head Start served 11,185 children in Maryland, an increase of 10.5% from 2015.[31]

- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Maryland made 14,610 home visits to 2,473 participants in 1,326 households. [64]

- In 2017, there were 41 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Maryland. [11]

- 3,841 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 3,914 children in 2015.[12]

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2016

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 1% 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 Maryland decreased from 52,738 in 2016 to 44,133 in 2018, a 16.3% change. There was a 17,838 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 16% from 2016.[20]

- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 39 received TANF cash assistance.[21]

- $497,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Maryland, including 23% on basic assistance.[22]

- $60,011,013 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Maryland, serving 128,542 participants.[23]

- In 2017, Maryland distributed $528,767,756 in child support funds, a .15% change from 2014.[24]

- 447,000 children in Maryland 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 Maryland was 4.2. [26]

- 15% of households in Maryland 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

- 537,943 children in Maryland were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 1.2% from 2015.[32]

- In 2017, Maryland had 141,836 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 3.1% from 2015, when 137,592 children were enrolled.[33]

- In 2016, Maryland had 45,000 uninsured children.[34]

- 6,248 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Maryland in 2016.[35]

- 480 infants under age 1 died in Maryland in 2016.[36]

- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Maryland was 7 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 29 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 16 births for girls ages 15 to 19.[37]

- Cumulative through 2016, there were 40,172 adults and adolescents and 341 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.[38]

- In 2015, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 187,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Maryland.[39]

- In 2014, approximately 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.[40]

- In 2014, approximately 16,000 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 Maryland reached $451,018,165. [64]

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 379 children in Maryland aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.[42]

- 88% of high school students in Maryland graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.[43]

- 17,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Maryland were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.[44]

- 64,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.[45]

- 39.3% of young adults in Maryland ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.[46]

- In 2017, there were 0 reports of children in Maryland aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 26 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.[47]

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 61 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Maryland in 2017, compared to 64 in 2015.[48]

- 19,506 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,935 of the arrests in 2016.[49]

- 612 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland 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, Maryland's sum of expenditures for services totaled $29,530,830. The most utilized service in Maryland was Case Management totaling $17,681,730.[60]

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Maryland spent $507,946,784 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $142,815,954 was from federal funds and $365,130,830 was from state and local funds.[61]

- In 2016, of the $142,815,954 in federal funds received for child welfare, 17% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and

Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 6% was from TANF, and less than 1% came from other federal sources.[62]

- Maryland received $3,280,858 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including $0 for maintenance payments and $3,280,858 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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        Foster Care and Adoption, AFCARS State data tables 2007 through 2017. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from
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