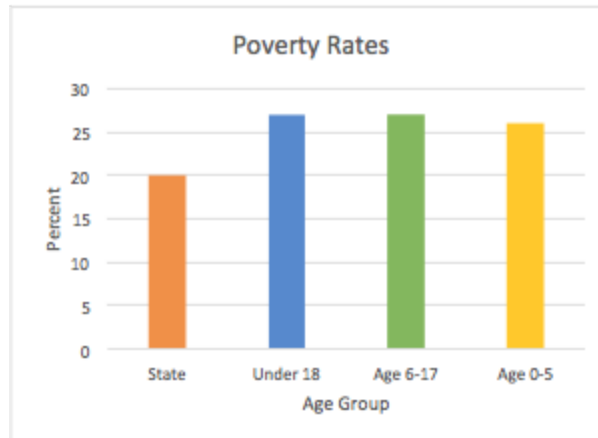


MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 2,984,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 713,567

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,890 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Mississippi, 56% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 364 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Mississippi in 2017, an decrease of 9% from 400 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 5,440 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,867 or 34.3% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 47,309 grandparents in Mississippi had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 2,162 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Mississippi had 33,267 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 27,775 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 10,429 victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi, a rate of 14.6 per 1,000 children, an increase of 2.5% from 2016. Of these children, 75.7% were neglected, 14.8% were physically abused, and 11.2% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 2.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

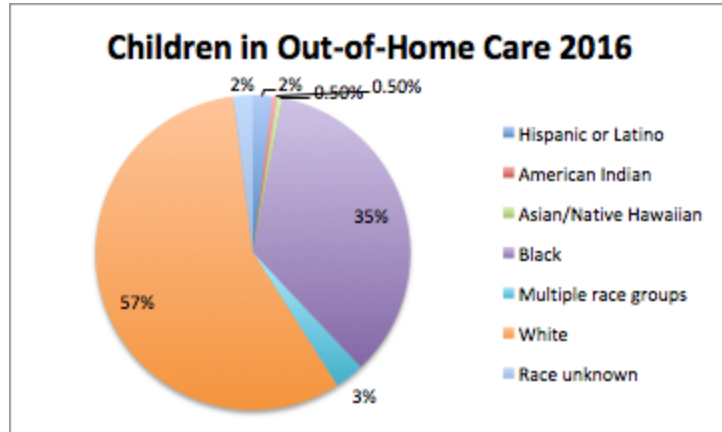


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Mississippi had a monthly average of 18,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 20,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 17,800 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Mississippi, a family of three could make no more than \$42,999 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Mississippi had 16,103 families on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 25,970 children in Mississippi, an increase of 7.1% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Mississippi made 12,222 home visits to 1,507 participants in 693 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 40 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Mississippi.¹¹

- 5,486 children in Mississippi lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 4,773 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 14.9% 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 Mississippi decreased from 11,777 in 2016 to 8,901 in 2018, a 24.4% change. There was a 4,499 monthly average of families receiving TANF in 2018, a decrease of 24.1% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 6 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$120,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Mississippi, including 7% on basic assistance.²²

- \$53,886,378 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Mississippi, serving 85,449 participants.²³
- In 2017, Mississippi distributed \$327,399,379 in child support funds, a 5.7% change from 2014.²⁴
- 200,000 children in Mississippi 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 Mississippi was 5.6. ²⁶
- 22% of households in Mississippi 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

- 437,140 children in Mississippi were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, a decrease of 1.1% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, Mississippi had 90,904 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 2.7% from 2015, when 88,531 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Mississippi had 33,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,345 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Mississippi in 2016.³⁵
- 325 infants under age 1 died in Mississippi in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Mississippi was 15 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 59 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 33 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 9,804 adults and adolescents and 58 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Mississippi.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 61,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Mississippi.³⁹

- In 2014, approximately 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 7,000 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 Mississippi reached \$141,709,137. ⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 85 children in Mississippi aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 82% of high school students in Mississippi graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 16,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Mississippi were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 53,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 32.1% of young adults in Mississippi 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 Mississippi aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 58 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi in 2017, compared to 48 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 3,812 children younger than 18 were arrested in Mississippi in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 131 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 243 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi 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, Mississippi's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$12,710,152. The most utilized service in Mississippi was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,676,757.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Mississippi spent \$160,482,273 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$80,226,399 was from federal funds and \$80,255,874 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$80,226,399 in federal funds received for child welfare, 24% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and

Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 10% was from TANF, and 4% came from other federal sources.⁶²

- Mississippi received \$25,711,702 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$11,719,140 for maintenance payments and \$13,992,562 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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7 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: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.
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