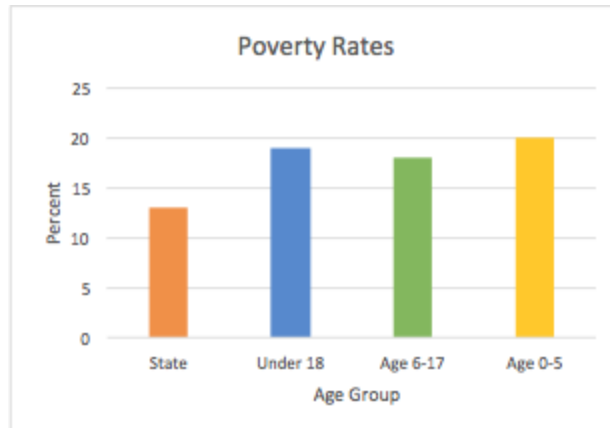


MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 6,114,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,382,971

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,640 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Missouri, 48% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,541 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Missouri in 2017, a decrease of 3.1% from 1,591 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 12,390 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 2,825 or 22.8% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 54,143 grandparents in Missouri had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 3,510 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Missouri had 85,622 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 65,096 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 4,585 victims of abuse or neglect in Missouri, a rate of 3.3 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 19.5% from 2016. Of these children, 58.5% were neglected, 29.7% were physically abused, and 27.2% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 19.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

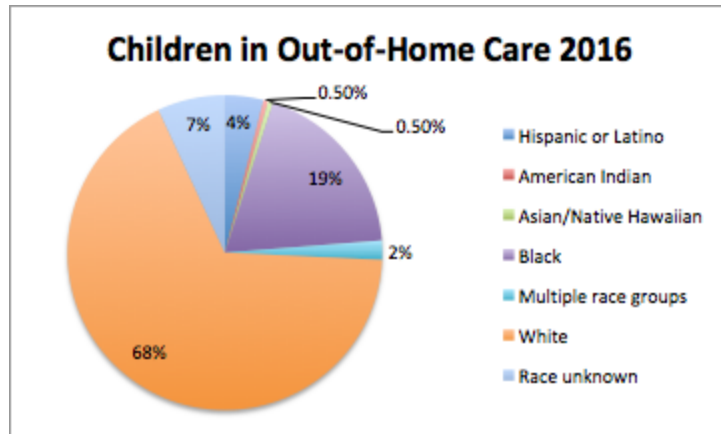


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Missouri had a monthly average of 37,900 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 36,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 34,500 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri, a family of three could make no more than \$27,816 at application, which is equivalent to 44% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Missouri had no families on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 18,790 children in Missouri, an increase of 11.1% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Missouri made 7,624 home visits to 999 participants in 493 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 33 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Missouri.¹¹

- 12,408 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 12,160 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 2% 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 Missouri decreased from 38,473 in 2016 to 22,235 in 2018, a 42.2% change. There was a 9,953 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 40% from 2016.²⁰

- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 14 received TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$356,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Missouri, including 12% on basic assistance.²²

- \$47,697,107 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Missouri, serving 114,323 participants.²³
- In 2017, Missouri distributed \$580,321,575 in child support funds, a 0.8% change from 2014.²⁴
- 335,000 children in Missouri 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 Missouri was 4.4. ²⁶
- 18% of households in Missouri 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

- 618,878 children in Missouri were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 6.9% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, Missouri had 93,800 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 19.7% from 2015, when 78,344 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Missouri had 62,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 6,473 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Missouri in 2016.³⁵
- 488 infants under age 1 died in Missouri in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Missouri was 9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 45 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 23 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 14,233 adults and adolescents and 68 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Missouri.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 141,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Missouri.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 13,000 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 Missouri reached \$440,176,029.

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 569 children in Missouri aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 89% of high school students in Missouri graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Missouri 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
- 40.6% of young adults in Missouri ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were 12 reports of children in Missouri aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 63 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 113 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Missouri in 2017, compared to 89 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 19,416 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 966 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 948 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri 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, Missouri's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$29,961,804. The most utilized service in Missouri was Case Management totaling \$30,813,491.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Missouri spent \$399,217,525 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$291,435,255 was from federal funds and \$107,782,270 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$291,435,255 in federal funds received for child welfare, 29% 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, 11% was from Medicaid, 8% came from Social Services Block Grant, 21% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁶²

- Missouri received \$71,697,185 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$24,902,482 for maintenance payments and \$46,794,703 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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