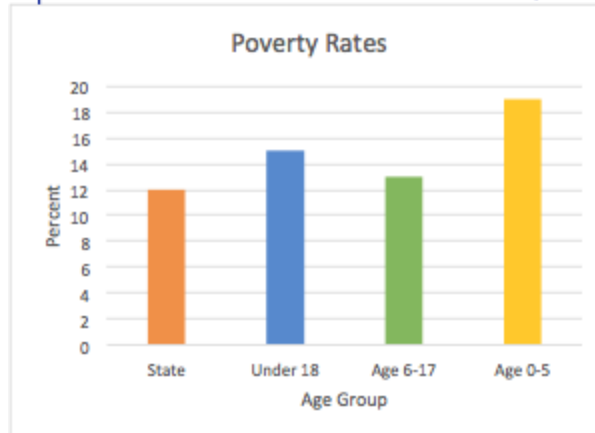


MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 1,050,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 228,889

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,829 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Montana, 56% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 274 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Montana in 2017, an increase of 5.4% from 260 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 3,853 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 831 or 21.6% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 7,854 grandparents in Montana had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,553 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Montana had 17,622 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 9,843 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 3,534 victims of abuse or neglect in Montana, a rate of 15.4 per 1,000 children, an increase of 89.2% from 2016. Of these children, 97.5% were neglected, 4% were physically abused, and 2.7% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 89.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

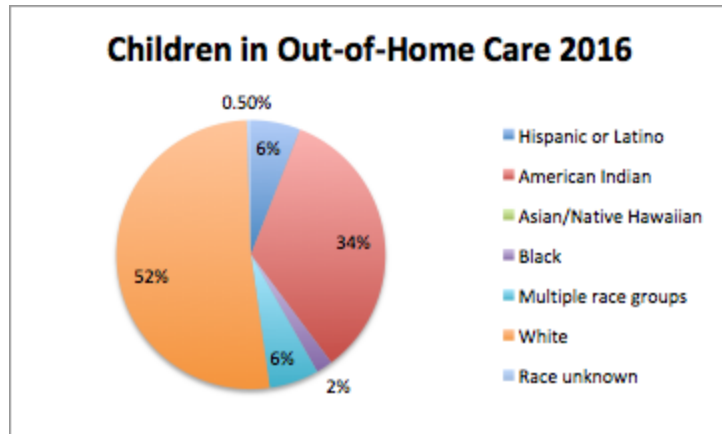


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Montana had a monthly average of 3,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 3,400 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, a family of three could make no more than \$30,240 at application, which is equivalent to 49% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Montana had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 5,695 children in Montana, an increase of 78.4% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Montana made 9,756 home visits to 2,002 participants in 1,017 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Montana.¹¹

- 3,366 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 2,807 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 19.9% 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 Montana increased from 7,653 in 2016 to 10,300 in 2018, a 34.6% change. There was a 4,064 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, an increase of 25.9% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 26 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$65,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Montana, including 40% on basic assistance.²²

- \$6,925,714 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Montana, serving 16,682 participants.²³
- In 2017, Montana distributed \$60,742,572 in child support funds, a .5% change from 2014.²⁴
- 54,000 children in Montana 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 Montana was 4.0. ²⁶
- 17% of households in Montana 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

- 103,566 children in Montana were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 9.5% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, Montana had 44,227 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 2.3% from 2015, when 45,261 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Montana had 11,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 966 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Montana in 2016.³⁵
- 72 infants under age 1 died in Montana in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Montana was 9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 45 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 24 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 549 adults and adolescents and 3 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 29,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Montana.³⁹

- In 2014, approximately 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 2,000 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 Montana reached \$49,737,028.

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 37 children in Montana aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 86% of high school students in Montana graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 4,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Montana were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 12,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 40.3% of young adults in Montana 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 Montana aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 12 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Montana in 2016, compared to 22 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 4,263 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 78 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 171 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Montana 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, Montana's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$5,038,600. The most utilized service in Montana was Foster Care Services for Children totaling \$1,138,989.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Montana spent \$81,393,837 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$31,214,611 was from federal funds and \$50,179,226 was from state and local funds.⁶¹

- In 2016, of the \$31,214,611 in federal funds received for child welfare, 26% 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, 0% was from Medicaid, 2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 6% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Montana received \$11,908,361 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$5,335,580 for maintenance payments and \$6,572,781 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³

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- 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.
- 10 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: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved February 14, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.
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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
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 Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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30 Ibid.
 Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).

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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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