

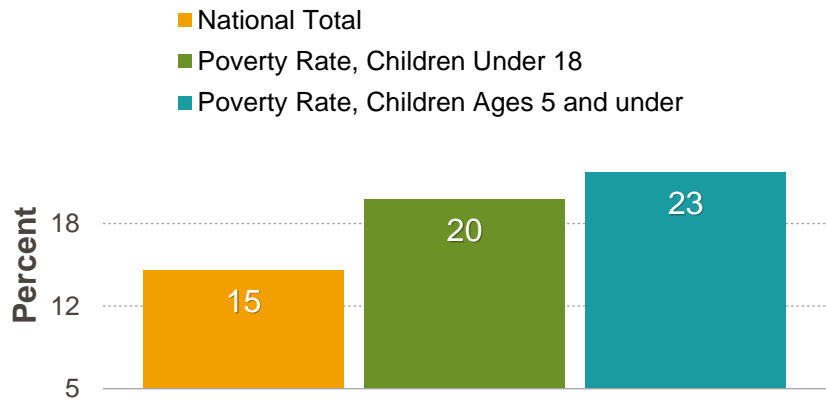
THE NATION'S CHILDREN 2019

Population of Children Under 18: 73,601,279

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **247,631** children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in the United States, **121,203** were reunited with their parents or other family members. In addition, 25,229 children exited out-of-home care to guardianship.⁸²
- In 2017, approximately **59,430** children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency, a 3.7% increase from 57,209 in 2016.⁸³
- Of the **442,995** children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were **123,437** children waiting to be adopted.⁸⁴

National Poverty Rates⁸¹



AMERICA'S CHILDREN: A SNAPSHOT

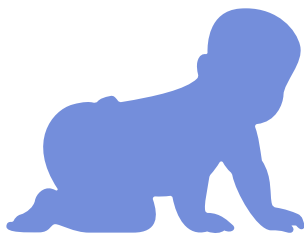
Child population under 18, 2017.....	73,601,279 ⁱ
White children (not Hispanic) under 18, 2017.....	50.5% ⁱⁱ
Non-white children under 18, 2017.....	49.5% ⁱⁱⁱ
Young children (under 6), 2016.....	32.3% ^{iv}
Children (6–11), 2016.....	33.6% ^v
Youth (12–17), 2016.....	33.8% ^{vi}

AMERICA'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Estimated referrals of possible child abuse and neglect, 2016.....	3,501,000 ^{vii}
Children substantiated/indicated as abused or neglected, 2017.....	674,000 ^{viii}
Estimated children who died as a result of abuse or neglect, 2017.....	1,720 ^{ix}
Children living in out-of-home care, 2017.....	442,995 ^x
Children adopted from the public foster care system, 2017.....	59,430 ^{xi}
Children waiting to be adopted, 2017.....	123,437 ^{xii}
Children living in poverty, 2017.....	14,710,485 ^{xiii}
Children living in low-income families (200% of poverty), 2017.....	29,019,000 ^{xiv}

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

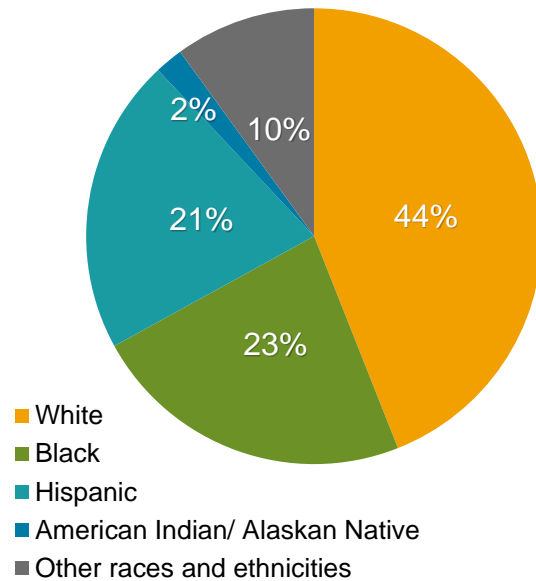
- In 2017, the percentage of children under 18 living in poverty is 20.3%, a slight decrease from 21.2% in 2016.⁸⁵
- The total number of children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the United States decreased from 1,927,726 in 2017 to 1,767,210 in 2018. The number of families receiving TANF in 2018 was up to 1,012,938 from 1,075,183 in 2017.⁸⁶
- For 2018, approximately \$5.3 billion was spent on the Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) Nutrition Program, serving 6.9 million participants, a decrease from 7.3 million participants in FY 2017.⁸⁷
- In 2017, \$28.6 billion in child support funds was collected and distributed in the United States, similar to the prior year.⁸⁸



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, approximately 4.1 million allegations of child abuse and neglect, representing 7.5 million children, were made to child protective services agencies. 2.4 million of the reports were referred for a CPS investigation, as reported by 45 states.^{xv}
- During 2017, an estimated 674,000 children in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect. Of these children, 74.9% were neglected, 18.3% were physically abused, and 8.6% were sexually abused.^{xvi}
- Of the substantiations of child abuse and neglect in 2017, 60.2% received postresponse services. That service was foster care 23.7% of the time. Of the non-substantiated reports, 29.6% received postresponse services.^{xvii}
- 442,995 children lived apart from their families in foster care in 2017. Of those children, 42% were age 5 or younger, 42% were ages 6 through 15, and 14% were 16 or older. ^{xviii}

Children in Out of Home Care 2017



KINSHIP SUPPORT

- 2,582,410 grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren in 2017.⁸⁹
- In 2017, of the 442,995 children in out-of-home care, 140,675 were living with relatives while in care.⁹⁰
- In 2017, approximately 7.6 million children under age 18 lived in homes with a householder who was their grandparent or other relative. Of these, approximately 5.8 million lived with grandparents who were the householders.⁹¹
- The Administration projects that 38,400 children will be covered under the Title IV-E Kinship Guardianship Assistance program in FY 2020 which represents an increase of approximately 3,000 children above the previous year. These numbers continue to gradually increase with 2018 numbers at 30,600.⁹²

HEALTH

PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

- In 2017, the birth rate for U.S. teenagers aged 15-19 was 18.8 births per 1,000 women, falling 7% from 2016, setting another record low.^{xix}
- Teen girls in foster care are estimated to be 2.5 times as likely as their peers not in foster care to get pregnant by age 19.^{xx}
- It is estimated that the teen childbearing costs and the first year of infancy costs taxpayers \$16,000 per teen birth.^{xxi}

NEWBORN HEALTH AND INFANT MORTALITY

- Nationally, low-birth-weight babies represented 8.28% of all live births in 2017, a slight increase from 8.17% in 2016, surpassing the peak reported for 2006 (8.26%).^{xxii}
- The infant mortality rate for 2017 was 579.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, a decrease from 587.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.^{xxiii}

HIV/AIDS

- In 2017, there were 8,090 cases of individuals age 13-24 living with an HIV infection.^{xxiv}
- In 2017, 1,356 individuals ages 13-24 were living with AIDS.^{xxv}

CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among those 10-19 years old, accounting for over 21% of deaths annually for this age group. Among American Indian/Alaskan Natives aged 10-19, the suicide rate is approximately 1.2 times higher than the national average for that age group.^{xxvi}
- Mental health disorders are chronic diseases among youth; half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% have begun by age 24.^{xxvii}
- The average age of onset was 6 for anxiety disorders, 11 for behavior disorders, 13 for mood disorders, and 15 for substance use disorders.^{xxviii}

- Common mental disorders that can be diagnosed in childhood are attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety, and behavior disorders. For children aged 3-17 years, 1 in 24 children were diagnosed with anxiety in 2017 and 1 in 37 were diagnosed with depression.^{xxxix}
- In 2017, approximately 3.6 million youth aged 12–17 (14.8%) received treatment or counseling for problems with emotions or behavior in a specialty mental health setting (inpatient or outpatient care).^{xxx}
- Among adolescents with mental health disorders, treatment varies among different mental disorders. Only an estimated 14.8% received mental health services in a specialized health setting and 13.3% in an education setting.^{xxxi}

FOSTER CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Child maltreatment and instability in placement among children in foster care increases the likelihood of a child being diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder.^{xxxii}
- Between 50% and 80% of youth in foster care are reported to have at least one severe behavioral, emotional, or developmental problems and 23% are reported to have more than one.^{xxxiii}
- Children in foster care are four times more likely to be prescribed psychotropic medications than other children and prescribed multiple psychotropic medications.^{xxxiv}
- In the child welfare system, many youth do not receive mental health services and young people who leave care use mental health services at a lower rate than youth who remain in extended care at age 19.^{xxxv}
- Children in foster care have unmet treatment needs and an estimated 75% of children in need of mental health services do not receive specialty mental health services.^{xxxvi}
- The California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH) revealed that over two-fifth (41.2%) of young adults from California’s foster care system had experienced at least one mental health disorder and nearly one-quarter (24.8%) experienced a substance use disorder. 53% revealed they had a diagnosis for one or more mental and behavioral health condition.^{xxxvii}

FOSTER CARE AND MEDICAID

- In 2011, children in foster care represented 2.6% of the children served by Medicaid, however, they accounted for 11.1% of children utilizing behavioral health services and 20.7% of behavioral health spending.^{xxxviii}

- Expenses for behavioral health services for children in foster care was over two times higher than expenses for physical health services annually.^{xxxix}
- In 2011, the top three psychiatric diagnoses received by children in foster care were: Conduct Disorder, Mood Disorder, and ADHD.^{xl}
- Children in residential or therapeutic group homes make up 4.2% of children receiving Medicaid services but account for 21.7% of total behavioral health costs. Children in foster care represented 9.3% of children who received residential treatment/therapeutic group care.^{xli}
- The proportion of children with health insurance coverage for any part of the year has increased modestly, from 89% in 2000 to 95% in 2016. However, the share of children with private insurance increased slightly to 63% in 2016, while the proportion of children covered under Medicaid is 39%.^{xlii}

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

CHILD SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- An estimated 345,000 adolescents in 2017 had a co-occurring substance use disorder and a major depressive episode in the past year. This number represents 1.4 percent of all adolescents in the United States.^{xliii}
- There were 26,000 adolescents aged 12 to 17 who were current users of cocaine in 2017.^{xliv}
- In 2017, 6.5 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 were current users of marijuana.^{xlv}

PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Children of parents who abuse alcohol or drugs are at an increased risk of abuse or neglect.^{xlvi}
- It is estimated that 61% of infants and 41% of older children in out-of-home care are from families with active substance abuse.^{xlvii} One in three children entered foster care due to parental substance abuse in 2017.^{xlviii}
- It is estimated that 15% of infants born annually are affected by prenatal alcohol or drug exposure, 2.7% of infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), and 45% of children under age 6 entered out-of-home care in 2015.^{xlix}
- Overdose and drug-related hospitalizations increase the rates of child abuse reports, increases the number of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases, and increases foster care numbers. The Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) study, *Substance Use, the Opioid Epidemic, and the Child Welfare System: Key Findings from a Mixed Method Study* found:

- Foster care entries and overdose deaths are related nationally but show variation across the country. Appalachia, parts of the Pacific Northwest, parts of the Southwest, Oklahoma and New England had strong relationships between overdose deaths and foster care entries.¹
- A 10 percent increase in overdose death rates correspond to a 4.4 percent increase in the foster care entry rate and a ten percent increase in the hospitalization rate due to drug use corresponds to a 3.3 percent increase in the foster care entry rate.
- There is a shortage of treatment and the treatment course may be shorter or different than what is needed. Substance use assessment is haphazard and there is a lack of “family-friendly” treatment that includes family therapy, child care, parenting classes and developmental services.
- While not a new problem but one that has intensified, caseworkers and agencies are overwhelmed, community leaders see it as worse now than past years and there is greater danger for caseworkers involving safety which includes dangerous confrontations and the interaction with hazardous drugs workers might come into contact with.

OPIOIDS AND CHILDREN

- In 2017, 36% of children who entered foster care were removed from their homes due to a parent’s drug abuse.^{li}
- In 2017, around 2,000 adolescents (12-17) were current users of heroin.^{lii}
- In 2017, about 769,000 adolescents aged 12-17 misused opioids in the past year.^{liii}
- The national prevalence of opioid use disorder for women at labor and delivery quadrupled from 1999 to 2014. Opioid use during pregnancy can lead to neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) that causes newborns to experience withdrawal once born.^{liv}
- Youth with parents or guardians with substance abuse disorders are at greater risk of developing psycho-behavioral issues or other grave medical conditions.^{lv}

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, Social Services Block Grant funds went towards:
 - Child foster care services, 17%
 - Child protective services, 12%
 - Child day care services, 10%
 - Special services for youth at risk, 3%^{lvi}

HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

- In FY 2017, states reported serving approximately 156,000 parents and children in 888 counties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories through the Federal Home Visiting Program.^{lvii}
- In FY 2017, the Federal Home Visiting Program funded services in 36 percent of all urban counties, and 22 percent of all rural counties.^{lviii}

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, an estimated monthly average of 1,316,900 of the nation's children received subsidized child care. This compares to 2016 when 1,370,700 children were served, 1,393,900 children served in 2015, and 1,438,200 children served in 2014.^{lix}
- In 2017, Head Start served 1,070,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women.^{lx}
- In FY 2018, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) was funded at \$8.143 billion, \$2.37 billion more than the FY 2017 funding level, and the amount of TANF funds used for child care in FY 2017 was \$2.753 billion, for a total of \$10.964 billion in FY 2018. Even after adjustment for inflation, the amount of TANF and CCDBG funds used for child care in FY 2018 remains below its high of \$11.918 billion in FY 2001 inflation adjusted dollars.^{lxi}
- In 2018, the income eligibility limit for obtaining child care assistance remained below 200% of poverty level was \$20,780 a year for a family of three. In every community across the country, a family needs an income above 200% of poverty to meet basic needs, including housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, and other necessities.^{lxii}
- In 2018, 19 states had waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance, compared to 20 states in 2017 and 21 states in 2001.^{lxiii}
- In 2018, only one state paid child care providers at the 75th percentile of current market rates, slightly lower than the two states in 2017, and a sharp decline from 22 states paying at the 75th percentile of market rates in 2001.^{lxiv}

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In FY 2017, approximately 20,000 youth left out-of-home care without a permanent family.^{lxv}
- In 2018, a point-in-time survey identified 4,093 unaccompanied homeless youth on a single night in January.^{lxvi}
- A 2017 survey of the nation's youth found the following regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students:

- At least 6 in 10 students reported that they felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation and 4 in 10 based on their gender expression;
 - Nearly a fifth (18%) reported that they changed schools due to feeling unsafe or uncomfortable at school;
 - More than 87.3% experienced a form of harassment or assault at school based on a personal characteristic (i.e. sexual orientation, gender expression, etc.);
 - Were more likely to be disciplined at school compared to their non-LGBTQ peer (54.1% vs. 30.3%).^{lxxvii}
- In 2017, there were about 669,000 teens between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not in school and had not graduated from high school.^{lxxviii} There were 1,171,000 teens between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not enrolled in school and were not working.^{lxxix}
 - In 2017, one quarter of all children in the United States had a parent who was foreign born. Children who have difficulty speaking English may face greater challenges progressing in school and in the labor market.^{lxxx}

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PROGRAM

- In 2017, U.S. law enforcement agencies arrested an estimated 620,264 persons younger than age 18, a 4.5% decrease from 2016.^{lxxxi}
- A study found 44% of homeless youth had been in a jail, prison or juvenile detention center and that 62% had been arrested at some point in their lives.^{lxxxii}
- A report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) found that 9.8% of homeless youth had foster care experience.^{lxxxiii}
- Black, Hispanic, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth experiencing homelessness are disproportionately represented in the justice system.^{lxxxiv}
- In 2017, approximately 45,000 youth aged 12–17 received treatment or counseling for problems with emotions or behavior in a juvenile justice setting.^{lxxxv}

FUNDING FOR CHILDREN AND CHILD WELFARE

- Federal spending on children fell from 8.2% in FY 2014 to 8.06% of GDP in FY 2018. Spending on children is projected to continue to decline in the future.^{lxxxvi}
- In 2017, the federal government had a total budget of \$3.9 trillion. The sum of federal outlays and tax expenditures on children (\$375 billion) made up about 9% of total federal outlays and tax expenditures in 2018, consistent with years prior.^{lxxxvii}

- The ten programs that spent the most on children in the 2017 federal budget were:
 - Medicaid (\$90 billion)
 - Earned Income Tax Credit (\$60 billion)
 - Child Tax Credit (\$49 billion)
 - Dependent Exemption (\$38 billion)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (\$31 billion)
 - Employer Sponsored Insurance (\$23 billion)
 - Child Nutrition Programs (\$22 billion)
 - Social Security (\$21 billion)
 - Title I/Education for the Disadvantaged (\$16 billion)
 - Children’s Health Insurance Program (\$15 billion)^{lxxviii}
- In FY 2016, \$29.9 billion federal dollars was spent for child welfare. Of this, 55% was from Title IV-E, 4% was from Title IV-B, 6% was from Medicaid, 11% was from the Social Services Block Grant, 20% was from TANF, and 3% was from other federal sources, including SSI and Survivors Benefits.^{lxxix}

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- Caseloads and workloads do matter, CWLA advises agencies to set their own workload and caseload standards. CWLA recommends that child welfare agencies should develop workload standards for staff of the specific program that are based on best social work practices, staff key responsibilities, time demands, and staff-, child-, family-specific factors. Caseloads should be based on the amount of time workers need to devote to direct contacts with clients in order to get the outcomes for safety, permanency, and well-being.^{lxxx}
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.^{lxxxi} Turnover rates at around 10% are optimal within any agency.^{lxxxii} The estimated cost of turnover for each worker leaving a child welfare agency is \$54,000.^{lxxxiii}
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.^{lxxxiv}
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned an annual salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Approximately 20% of caseworkers had salaries over \$50,000.^{lxxxv}

- 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.^{lxxxvi}
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.^{lxxxvii}

ⁱ U.S. Census Bureau (2017). 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_B09001&prodType=table.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). *Children characteristics: United States*. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S0901&prodType=table.

Note: Percentages are CWLA calculation.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child maltreatment 2017. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

^{viii} Ibid.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). *AFCARS report #25*. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport25.pdf>.

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} Ibid.

^{xiii} U.S. Census Bureau (2017). *Poverty status in the past 12 months: United States*. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_1YR_S1701&prodType=table.

^{xiv} KIDS COUNT Data Center (2018). *Children below 200 percent poverty*. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/47-children-below-200-percent-poverty#detailed/1/any/false/871,870,573,869,36,868/any/329,330>.

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^{xv} U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). Child Maltreatment 2017. Retrieved February 4, 2019. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

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^{xvii} Ibid.

- ^{xviii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). *AFCARS report #25*. Retrieved February 4, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport25.pdf>.
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- ^{xxv} Ibid.
- ^{xxvi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). (2018). Causes of Injury-Related Death. Retrieved February 5, 2019 from <https://wisqars-viz.cdc.gov:8006/>.
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xliv Ibid.

xlv Ibid.

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