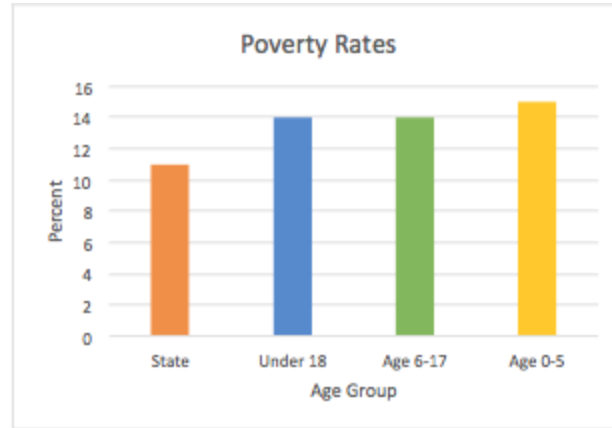


NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 1,920,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 475,733

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,369 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Nebraska, 59% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 546 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Nebraska in 2017, an increase of 13% from 483 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 4,195 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 771 or 18.4% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 9,963 grandparents in Nebraska had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,324 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

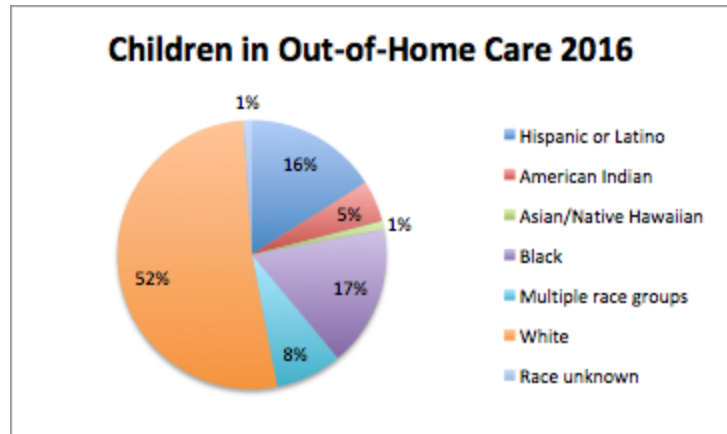
- In 2017, Nebraska had 35,425 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 13,199 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 3,246 victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska, a rate of 6.8 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 6.8% from 2016. Of these children, 85.4% were neglected, 11.7% were physically abused, and 7.5% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 6.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰
- In 2017, there was 1 child death resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Nebraska.¹¹



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, Nebraska had a monthly average of 10,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 11,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 11,400 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nebraska, a family of three could make no more than \$26,544 at application, which is equivalent to 39% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, Nebraska had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 6,308 children in Nebraska, an increase of 18.3% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Nebraska made 3,131 home visits to 563 participants in 232 households.⁶⁴

- 4,012 children in Nebraska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 3,725 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 7.7% 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 Nebraska decreased from 10,718 in 2016 to 10,280 in 2018, a 4.1% change. There was a 4,325 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 4.9% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 21 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$104,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Nebraska, including 25% on basic assistance.²²
- \$17,476,691 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nebraska, serving 35,833 participants.²³

- In 2017, Nebraska distributed \$204,462,116 in child support funds, a .4% change from 2014.²⁴
- 105,000 children in Nebraska 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 Nebraska was 3.4. ²⁶
- 21% of households in Nebraska 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

- 167,102 children in Nebraska were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 1.2% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, Nebraska had 56,197 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 9.7% from 2015, when 62,218 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Nebraska had 24,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 1,869 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nebraska in 2016.³⁵
- 164 infants under age 1 died in Nebraska in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Nebraska was 8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 34 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 19 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 2,080 adults and adolescents and 12 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Nebraska.³⁸
- In 2015, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 51,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Nebraska.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰

- In 2014, approximately 5,000 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 Nebraska reached \$97,527,060.

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 134 children in Nebraska aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 89% of high school students in Nebraska graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 5,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Nebraska were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 17,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 45.6% of young adults in Nebraska 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 Nebraska aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 25 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 16 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nebraska in 2017, compared to 16 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 8,921 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nebraska in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 168 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 465 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nebraska 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, Nebraska's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$9,296,948. The most utilized service in Nebraska was Case Management totaling \$5,536,748.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Nebraska spent \$159,192,155 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$44,077,602 was from federal funds and \$115,114,553 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - Nebraska received \$444,747 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$157,696 for maintenance payments and \$287,051 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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- 7 Ibid.
- 8 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: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2016. Retrieved February 06, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>.
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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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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2017. Retrieved January 22, 2019 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table.
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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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