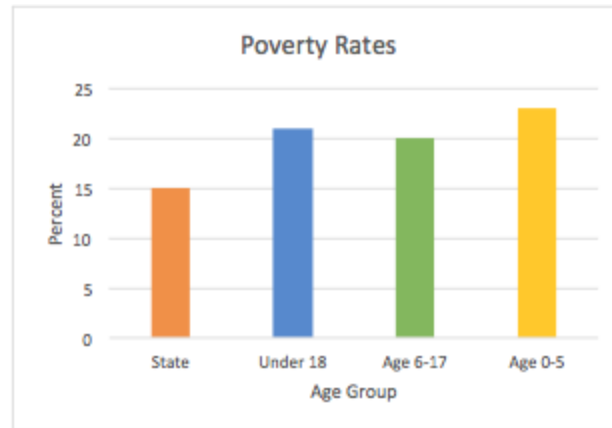


NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 10,270,000 | Population of Children Under 18: 2,302,346

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,745 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in North Carolina, 42% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,528 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in North Carolina in 2017, an increase of 1.8% from 1,501 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 10,706 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 2,907 or 27.2% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 94,880 grandparents in North Carolina had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 2,807 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, North Carolina had 67,550 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 67,550 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 7,392 victims of abuse or neglect in North Carolina, a rate of 3.2 per 1,000 children, a decrease of 5.9% from 2016. Of these children, 52.1% were neglected, 24.5% were physically abused, and 19.5% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 5.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2016.¹⁰

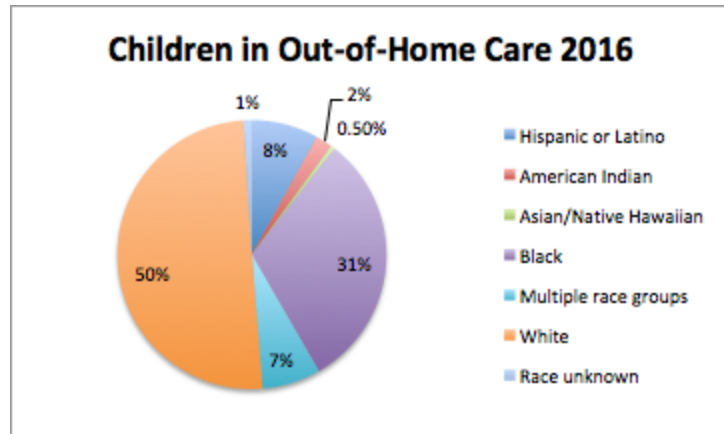


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2016, North Carolina had a monthly average of 60,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 64,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2015 and 65,600 were recipients in 2014.²⁸
- In 2018, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$40,836 at application, which is equivalent to 69% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2018, North Carolina had 50,742 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 26,073 children in North Carolina, an increase of 19.6% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in North Carolina made 6,603 home visits to 967 participants in 514 households.⁶⁴

- In 2017, there were 18 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in North Carolina.¹¹

- 10,425 children in North Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 10,324 children in 2015.¹²



- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased .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 North Carolina decreased from 28,682 in 2016 to 26,448 in 2018, a 7.8% change. There was a 15,286 monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 3% from 2016.²⁰
- In 2017, for every 100 poor families with children, only 7 received TANF cash assistance.²¹
- \$576,000,000 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in North Carolina, including 7% on basic assistance.²²

- \$112,910,361 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in North Carolina, serving 221,719 participants.²³
- In 2017, North Carolina distributed \$656,441,704 in child support funds, a .15% change from 2014.²⁴
- 643,000 children in North Carolina 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 North Carolina was 5.1. ²⁶
- 21% of households in North Carolina 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

- 1,154,277 children in North Carolina were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.7% from 2015.³²
- In 2017, North Carolina had 273,850 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 16.7% from 2015, when 234,654 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, North Carolina had 102,000 uninsured children.³⁴
- 11,127 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in North Carolina in 2016.³⁵
- 870 infants under age 1 died in North Carolina in 2016.³⁶
- In 2016, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in North Carolina was 10 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 40 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 22 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 24,539 adults and adolescents and 143 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.³⁸

- In 2015, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 242,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in North Carolina.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 18,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 26,000 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 North Carolina reached \$582,486,663.⁶⁴

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 494 children in North Carolina aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 86% of high school students in North Carolina graduated on time at the end of the 2015-16 year.⁴³
- 40,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in North Carolina were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 132,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 39.3% of young adults in North Carolina ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were 20 reports of children in North Carolina aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 59 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 89 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in North Carolina in 2017, compared to 84 in 2015.⁴⁸

- 16,027 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Carolina in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 923 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 468 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina 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, North Carolina's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$48,767,538. The most utilized service in North Carolina was Foster Care Services for children totaling \$8,281,338.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, North Carolina spent \$603,874,040 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$252,696,282 was from federal funds and \$351,177,758 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$252,696,282 in federal funds received for child welfare, 21% 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, 0% was from Medicaid, 3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and less than 1% came from other federal sources.⁶²
 - North Carolina received \$69,934,496 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$30,714,843 for maintenance payments and \$39,219,653 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training. ⁶³
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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>.
- 11 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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- 15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). FY 2005 – FY 2017 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year. Retrieved February 1, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/fy2005-2014-foster-care-entries-exits>.
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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
- 17 Ibid.
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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.
- 23 USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2018). Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants. Retrieved February 27, 2018 from <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/pd/26wifypart.pdf>
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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.
- 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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- 51 Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.
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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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