

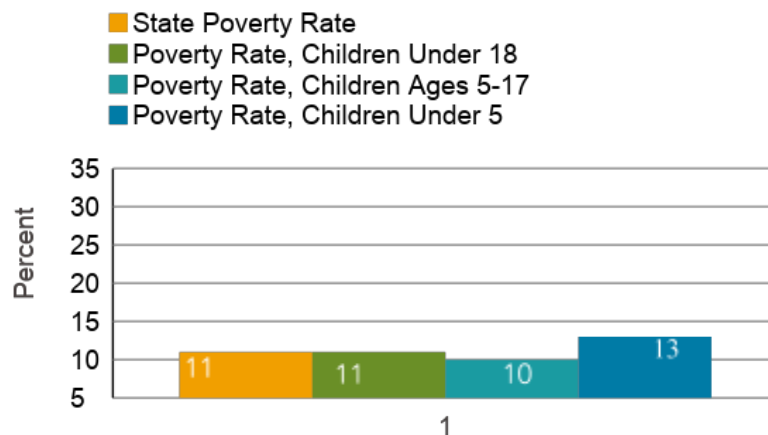
NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 760,077 | Population of Children Under 18: 177,098

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 970 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in North Dakota, 54% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 162 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in North Dakota in 2017, a increase of 18.5% from 132 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 1,495 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 396 or 26.5% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 3,185 grandparents in North Dakota had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 277 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, North Dakota had 3,982 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3,982 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 1,981 victims of abuse or neglect in North Dakota, a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 children, an increase 30.6% from 2013. Of these children, 76.8% were neglected, 7.9% were physically abused, and 2.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 30.6% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
- In 2017, there were 1 child death resulting from abuse or neglect reported in North Dakota.¹¹



- 1,495 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 1,407 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 525 aged 5 or younger, and 233 were 16 or older.¹²

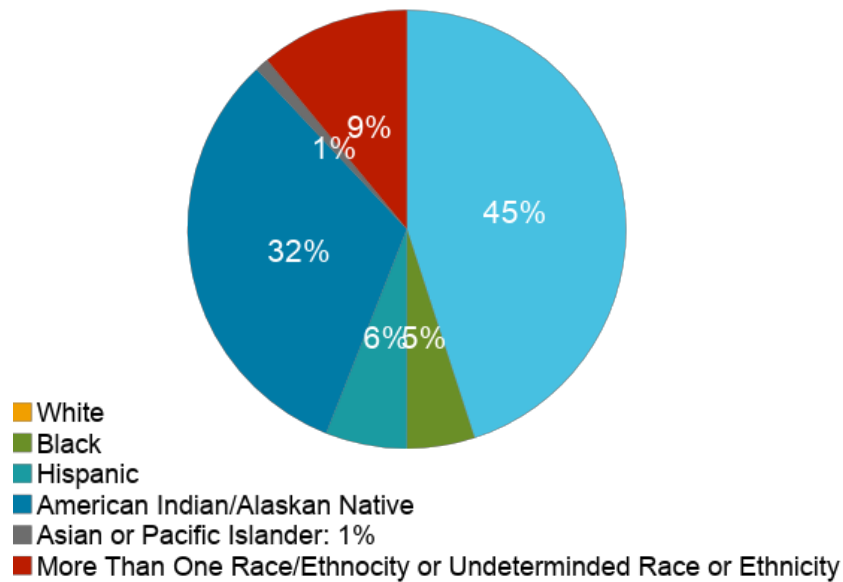
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, North Dakota had a monthly average of 2,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 2,200 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$44,724 at application, which is equivalent to 60% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 1,988 children in North Dakota, a decrease of 18.5% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in North Dakota made 2,529 home visits to 425 participants in 224 households.⁶⁵

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 5.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.¹³

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2016



- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota decreased from 2,673 in 2017 to 2,584 in 2018, a 3.3% change. There was a 1,045-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 3.8% from 2017.²⁰
- In North Dakota in 2017, 49,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$26,312,690 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in North Dakota, including 14.2% on Child Welfare or Foster Care Services, 4.9% on child care, and 0.1% on education and training.²²

- \$6,887,731 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in North Dakota, serving 12,313 participants.²³
- In 2017, North Dakota distributed \$95,775,243 in child support funds, an increase of 0.5% from 2016.²⁴
- 34,000 children in North Dakota lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in North Dakota was 2.7. ²⁶
- 7.4% of households in North Dakota were food insecure on average from 2014 to 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

- 39,925 children in North Dakota were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, the same as in 2016.³²
- In 2017, North Dakota had 2,233 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, the same as 2016.³³
- In 2017, North Dakota had 14,264 uninsured children.³⁴
- 752 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in North Dakota in 2016.³⁵
- 74 infants under age 1 died in North Dakota in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in North Dakota was 6.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 28.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 20 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 249 adults and adolescents and 2 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.³⁸
- In 2017, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 49,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in North Dakota.³⁹

- In 2017, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 1,000 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 Dakota reached \$33,219,499.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 55 children in North Dakota aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 88% of high school students in North Dakota graduated on time at the end of the 2017-18 year.⁴³
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in North Dakota were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 7,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 34.9% of young adults in North Dakota ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher from 2013 to 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were less than 10 reports of children in North Dakota aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- There were 40 children under the age 19 were killed by a firearm in North Dakota in 2017, compared to 31 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 4,581 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 69 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 144 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota 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 Dakota's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$3,653,554. The most utilized service in North Dakota was Counseling Services totaling \$3,653,554.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, North Dakota spent \$71,460,394 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$47,167,751 was from federal funds and \$24,292,643 was from state and local funds.⁶¹

- In 2016, of the \$47,167,751 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3.3% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 48.4% was from TANF, and 3.8% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- North Dakota received \$20,278,083 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$9,530,699 for maintenance payments and \$10,747,384 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.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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