

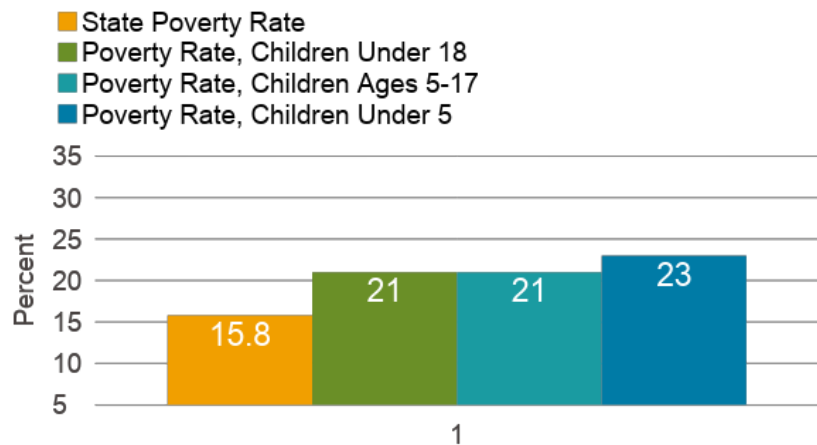
OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 3,943,079 | Population of Children Under 18: 962,111

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,824 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Oklahoma, 45% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 2,593 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Oklahoma in 2017, an increase of 4.1% from 2,487 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 9,312 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 4,074 or 43.4% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 45,563 grandparents in Oklahoma had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 3,197 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 2015, Oklahoma had 78,080 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,553 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
 - In 2017, there were 14,457 victims of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma, a rate of 15.1 per 1,000 children, an increase 25.1% from 2013. Of these children, 78.6% were neglected, 14% were physically abused, and 4.8% were sexually abused.⁹
 - The number of child victims has increased 25.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
 - In 2017, there were 21 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Oklahoma.¹¹



- 10,047 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 11,173 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 5,619 aged 5 or younger, and 695 were 16 or older.¹²

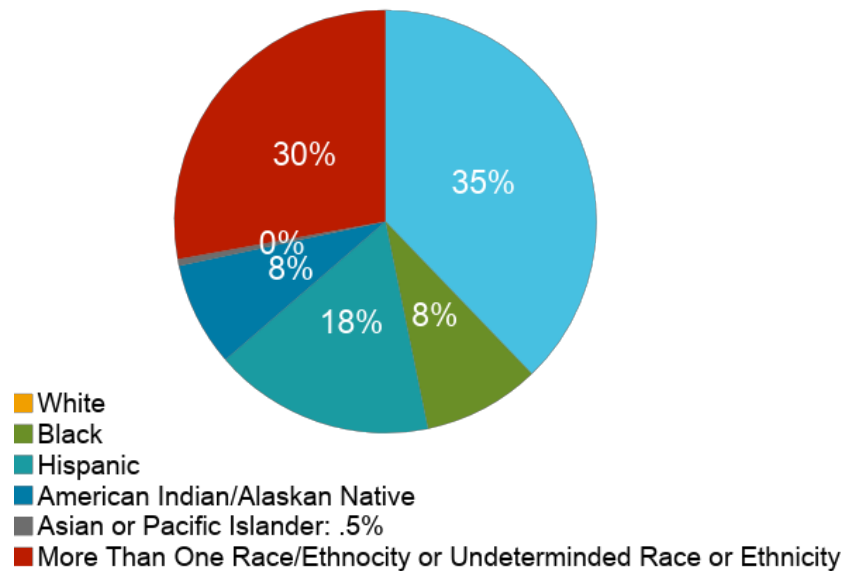
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Oklahoma had a monthly average of 24,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 23,500 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 24,300 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100 at application, which is equivalent to 63% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Oklahoma had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 14,409 children in Oklahoma, a decrease of 1.6% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Oklahoma made 12,430 home visits to 2,125 participants in 1,100 households.⁶⁵

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 10.1% 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 Oklahoma decreased from 15,099 in 2017 to 14,216 in 2018, a 5.8% change. There was a 6,410-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, an increase of 5.5 % from 2017.²⁰
- In Oklahoma in 2017, 451,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$144,792,997 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Oklahoma, including 13.2% on basic assistance, 27.6% on child care, 1.1% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²

- \$39,986,116 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Oklahoma, serving 98,554 participants.²³
- In 2017, Oklahoma distributed \$336,207,183 in child support funds, an increase of 1.9% from 2013.²⁴
- 248,000 children in Oklahoma lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 26% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Oklahoma was 3.2. ²⁶
- 16.2% of households in Oklahoma 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

- 723,497 children in Oklahoma were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.6% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Oklahoma had 201,006 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 6.5% from 2016, when 187,971 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Oklahoma had 85,703 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,110 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Oklahoma in 2016.³⁵
- 391 infants under age 1 died in Oklahoma in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Oklahoma was 12.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 56.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 33 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 6,671 adults and adolescents and 27 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 183,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Oklahoma.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 10,000 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 Oklahoma reached \$266,976,223.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 286 children in Oklahoma aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 82.5% of high school students in Oklahoma graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 18,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Oklahoma were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 66,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 26.2% of young adults in Oklahoma ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher from 2016 to 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Oklahoma aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 51 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 67 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oklahoma in 2017, compared to 57 in 2014.⁴⁸

- 8,750 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 479 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 552 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma 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, Oklahoma's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$19,162,359. The most utilized service in Oklahoma was Protective Services for Adults totaling \$ 7,474,258.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Oklahoma spent \$455,081,824 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$196,158,155 was from federal funds and \$258,923,669 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$196,158,155 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 11.3% was from Medicaid, 13.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 10% was from TANF, and 2.1% came from other federal sources.⁶²

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- Oklahoma received \$119,089,870 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$57,163,137 for maintenance payments and \$61,926,733 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

1 "At A Glance" statistics are from 2018.

2 U.S. Census Bureau (2019). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 21, 2019 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ok/PST045218>.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid

6 U.S. Census Bureau (2019). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 21, 2019 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/ok>.

7 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.

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12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). FY 2008 – FY 2017 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2008–FY 2017. Retrieved February 21, 2016 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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