OREGON’S CHILDREN 2019

ADoption, Kinship Care, and Permanent Families for Children

- Of the 3,177 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Oregon, 52% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.\textsuperscript{15}
- 707 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Oregon in 2017, a decrease of 8.6% from 768 in 2016.\textsuperscript{16}
- Of the 7,972 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,613 or 21.9% waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{17}
- In 2017, approximately 23,084 grandparents in Oregon had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.\textsuperscript{18}
- 2,501 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.\textsuperscript{19}

Poverty Rates

\begin{itemize}
  \item In 2017, Oregon had 71,921 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,708 reports were referred for investigation.\textsuperscript{8}
  \item In 2017, there were 11,070 victims of abuse or neglect in Oregon, a rate of 12.7 per 1,000 children, an increase 7.7% from 2013. Of these children, 56.8% were neglected, 10.5% were physically abused, and 7.9% were sexually abused.\textsuperscript{9}
  \item The number of child victims has increased 7.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.\textsuperscript{10}
  \item In 2017, there were 30 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Oregon.\textsuperscript{11}
  \item 7,927 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 7,625 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 3,153 aged 5 or younger, and 891 were 16 or older.\textsuperscript{12}
\end{itemize}
The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.13

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Oregon had a monthly average of 14,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 15,100 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 15,300 were recipients in 2015.28
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than $37,296 at application, which is equivalent to 61% of the state’s median income.29
- As of early 2017, Oregon had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30
- In 2017, Head Start served 12,913 children in Oregon, a decrease of 11.8% from 2015.31
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Oregon made 14,759 home visits to 1,985 participants in 1,052 households.65

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon decreased from 34,364 in 2017 to 33,358 in 2018, a 2.9% change. There was a 15,087-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 4.7% from 2017.20
- In Oregon in 2017, 334,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.21
- $183,898,649 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Oregon, including 48.3% on basic assistance, 7% on child care, 1.1% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.22
- $35,342,007 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Oregon, serving 85,774 participants.23
In 2017, Oregon distributed $355,411,282 in child support funds, an increase of 0.6% from 2013.  

279,000 children in Oregon lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 32.2% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.  

In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Oregon was 4.1.  

12.9% of households in Oregon 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.  

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  

618,437 children in Oregon were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 1.6% from 2016.  

In 2017, Oregon had 177,590 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, an increase of 20.7% from 2016, when 140,786 children were enrolled.  

In 2017, Oregon had 39,724 uninsured children.  

2,974 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Oregon in 2016.  

211 infants under age 1 died in Oregon in 2016.  

In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Oregon was 5.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 29.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 17 births for girls ages 15 to 19.  

Cumulative through 2017, there were 7,735 adults and adolescents and 18 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oregon.  

In 2017, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 253,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Oregon.  

In 2017, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.
In 2017, approximately 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\textsuperscript{41}

In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Oregon reached $614,523,965.\textsuperscript{64}

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- 288 children in Oregon aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.\textsuperscript{42}
- 73.8\% of high school students in Oregon graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.\textsuperscript{43}
- 13,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Oregon were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.\textsuperscript{44}
- 49,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2015.\textsuperscript{45}
- 33.9\% of young adults in Oregon ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor’s degree or higher from 2015 to 2017.\textsuperscript{46}
- In 2017, there were less than 10 reports of children in Oregon aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 39 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- 29 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oregon in 2017, compared to 23 in 2016.\textsuperscript{48}
- 8,955 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 349 of the arrests in 2017.\textsuperscript{49}
- 1,113 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon in 2015.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{53}

- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\textsuperscript{54} Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\textsuperscript{55}

**Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.**\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{58}

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

- In 2016, Oregon’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $20,253,475. The most utilized service in Oregon was Prevention and Intervention totaling $12,825,502.\textsuperscript{60}

**FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON’S CHILDREN**

- In 2016, Oregon spent $471,522,313 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $268,857,668 was from federal funds and $202,664,645 was from state and local funds.\textsuperscript{61}
In 2016, of the $268,857,668 in federal funds received for child welfare, 53.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 9.3% was from Medicaid, 3.7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 28.2% was from TANF, and 2.7% came from other federal sources.\textsuperscript{62}

Oregon received $144,637,496 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including for $69,425,998 maintenance payments and $75,211,498 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.\textsuperscript{63}

\textsuperscript{1} “At A Glance” statistics are from 2018.


\textsuperscript{3} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{4} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{5} Ibid


\textsuperscript{7} Ibid.


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: 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.


53 Ibid.


58 Ibid.


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.

62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.
