

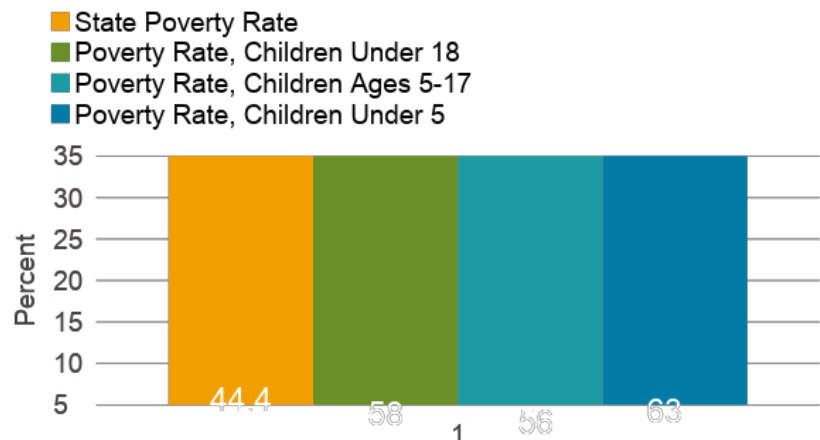
# PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 3,195,153 | Population of Children Under 18: 629,445

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 196 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Puerto Rico, 63% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 0 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Puerto Rico in 2017, the same as 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 4,539 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 300 or 6.1% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 41,698 grandparents in Puerto Rico had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 582 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Puerto Rico had 10,613 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 10,613 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 5,729 victims of abuse or neglect in Puerto Rico, a rate of 8.7 per 1,000 children, a decrease 35.3% from 2013. Of these children, 58.9% were neglected, 24.4% were physically abused, and 2.5% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 35.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.<sup>10</sup>



- In 2017, there were 6 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Puerto Rico.<sup>11</sup>
- 4,539 children in Puerto Rico lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 4,264 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 412 aged 5 or younger, and 1,216 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>

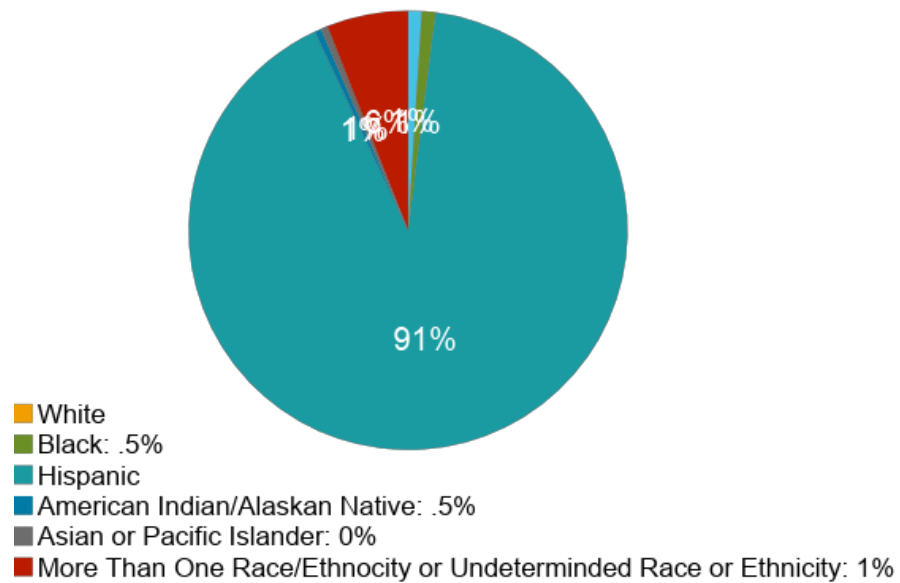
### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Puerto Rico had a monthly average of 1,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 7,900 were recipients in 2015.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 32,223 children in Puerto Rico, an increase of 12.4% from 2015.<sup>25</sup>

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.<sup>13</sup>

### 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 Puerto Rico decreased from 19,400 in 2017 to 16,437 in 2018, a 15.3% change. There was a 6,048-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 15.2% from 2017.<sup>20</sup>

- In Puerto Rico in 2017, 524,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.<sup>21</sup>

- \$120,377,015 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Puerto Rico, serving 112,709 participants.<sup>22</sup>
- 189,000 children in Puerto Rico lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 27% of monthly income is spent on housing cost.<sup>23</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2017, Puerto Rico had 25,143 uninsured children.<sup>26</sup>
- 2,885 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Puerto Rico in 2016.<sup>27</sup>
- 214 infants under age 1 died in Puerto Rico in 2016.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Puerto Rico was 11.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 42.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 30 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>29</sup>
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 35,080 adults and adolescents and 406 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Puerto Rico.<sup>30</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 31 children in Puerto Rico aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>31</sup>
- 25,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Puerto Rico were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- 76,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>33</sup>

## 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.*<sup>35</sup>

- 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.<sup>36</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>38</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.*<sup>39</sup>

- 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.<sup>40</sup>
- 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.<sup>41</sup>

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, Puerto Rico's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$8,195,172. The most utilized service in Puerto Rico was Counseling Services totaling \$5,050,407.<sup>43</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PUERTO RICO'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Puerto Rico spent \$22,150,340 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$14,919,711 was from federal funds and \$7,230,629 was from state and local funds.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2016, of the \$14,919,711 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 57.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 0% came from other federal sources.<sup>45</sup>

- Puerto Rico received \$6,320,521 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$3,341,314 for maintenance payments and \$399,541 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>46</sup>

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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 3-9: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2017. Retrieved February 19, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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 five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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19 Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2018). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Placement Type, 2016, Foster Family Home - Relative (Number). Retrieved February 5, 2019 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-%20type#detailed/2/2-52/true/870/2621/12994>.

20 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2019). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2018: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf\\_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf).

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34 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.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.