

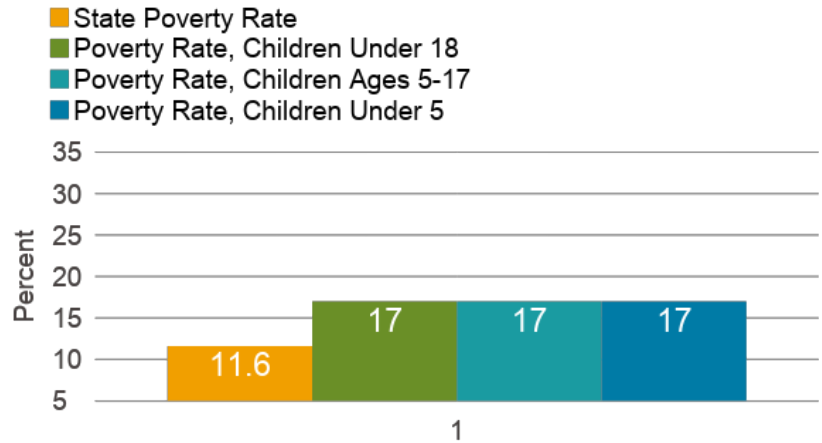
RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 1,057,315 | Population of Children Under 18: 207,233

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,017 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Rhode Island, 50% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 250 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Rhode Island in 2017, a decrease of 10.4% from 279 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 1,846 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 317 or 17.8% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 6,182 grandparents in Rhode Island had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 651 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, Rhode Island had 13,350 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,817 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
 - In 2017, there were 3,095 victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island, a rate of 14.9 per 1,000 children, a decrease 1.2% from 2013. Of these children, 57.7% were neglected, 14.7% were physically abused, and 3.3% were sexually abused.⁹
 - The number of child victims has decrease 1.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
 - In 2017, there were 5 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Rhode Island.¹¹



- 1,846 children in Rhode Island lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 1,654 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 693 aged 5 or younger, and 283 were 16 or older.¹²

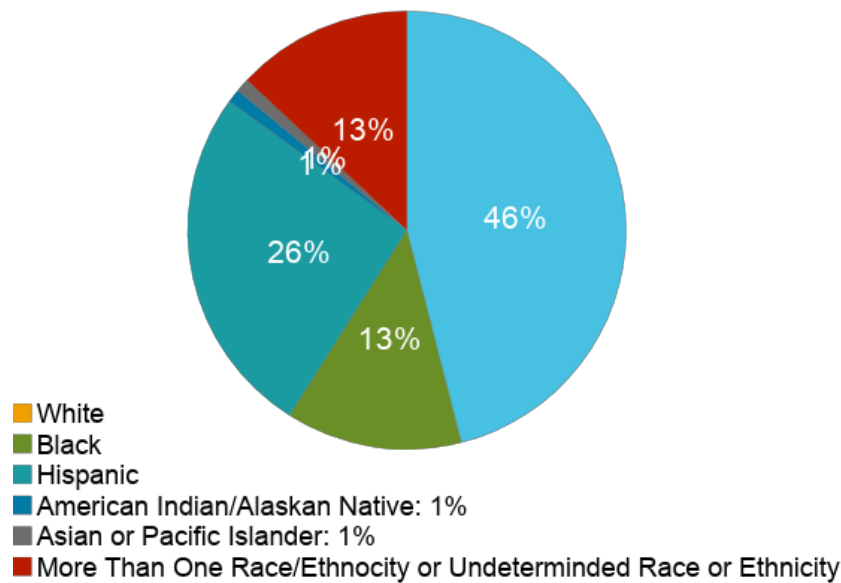
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Rhode Island had a monthly average of 6,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 6,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 6,000 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Rhode Island, a family of three could make no more than \$36,288 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Rhode Island had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 2,781 children in Rhode Island, an increase of 3.9% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Rhode Island made 22,820 home visits to 3,235 participants in 1,646 households.⁶⁵

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 10.4% 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 Rhode Island decreased from 10,842 in 2017 to 10,015 in 2018, a 7.6% change. There was a 4,247-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 6.8% from 2017.²⁰
- In Rhode Island in 2016, 66,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$110,218,646 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Rhode Island, including 12.1% on basic assistance, 15.5% on child care, 0.8% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²

- \$9,887,068 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Rhode Island, serving 18,950 participants.²³
- In 2017, Rhode Island distributed \$74,058,172 in child support funds, an increase of 6.6% from 2013.²⁴
- 67,000 children in Rhode Island lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 32% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Rhode Island was 3.9. ²⁶
- 12.1% of households in Rhode Island 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

- 139,469 children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.04% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Rhode Island had 27,433 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 24.3% from 2016, when 36,262 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Rhode Island had 7,784 uninsured children.³⁴
- 858 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Rhode Island in 2016.³⁵
- 62 infants under age 1 died in Rhode Island in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Rhode Island was 5.2 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 17.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 13 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 3,193 adults and adolescents and 29 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 60,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Rhode Island.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 3,000 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 Rhode Island reached \$108,354,005.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 144 children in Rhode Island aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 83.2% of high school students in Rhode Island graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 9,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 38% of young adults in Rhode Island ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher from 2015 to 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Rhode Island aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and no reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- Less than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Rhode Island in 2017, compared to less than 10 in 2016.⁴⁸

- 2,218 children younger than 18 were arrested in Rhode Island in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 109 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 198 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island 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, Rhode Island's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$6,369,960. The most utilized service in Rhode Island was Case Management totaling \$1,926,657.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Rhode Island spent \$191,108,538 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$60,650,079 was from federal funds and \$130,458,459 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$60,650,079 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31.1% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 41% was from Medicaid, 0% came from Social Services Block Grant, 19% was from TANF, and 6.7% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Rhode Island received \$18,870,236 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$3,763,057 for maintenance payments and \$6,907,107 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

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4 Ibid.

5 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 22, 2016 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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.

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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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