

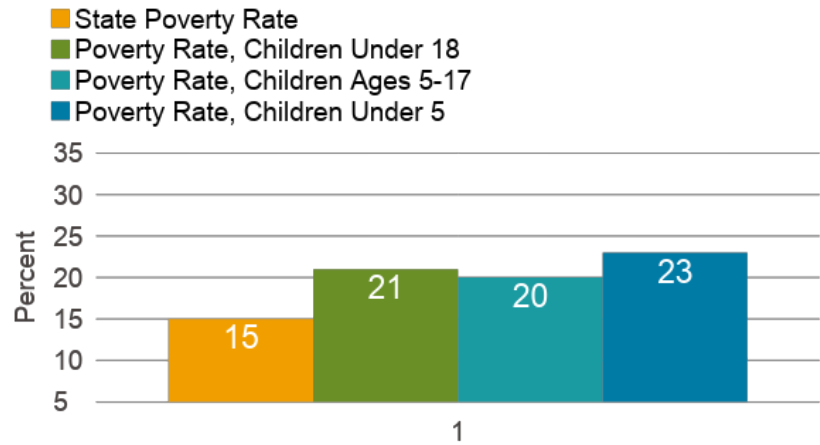
TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 6,770,010 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,516,482

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,688 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Tennessee, 49% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,260 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Tennessee in 2017, an increase of 2.8% from 1,225 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 8,558 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,322 or 15.4% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 76,971 grandparents in Tennessee had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 749 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, Tennessee had 130,107 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 74,497 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
 - In 2017, there were 8,983 victims of abuse or neglect in Tennessee, a rate of 6 per 1,000 children, a decrease 13.4% from 2013. Of these children, 24.9% were neglected, 60.4% were physically abused, and 28% were sexually abused.⁹
 - The number of child victims has decreased 13.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
 - In 2017, there were 43 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Tennessee.¹¹



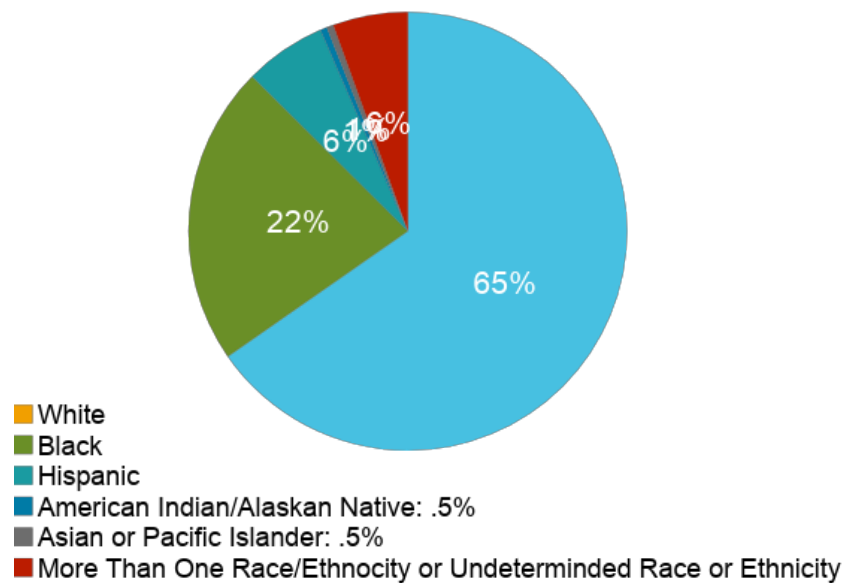
- 8,558 children in Tennessee lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 8,333 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 2,460 aged 5 or younger, and 2,153 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 2.6% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.¹³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Tennessee had a monthly average of 21,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 20,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 25,500 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Tennessee, a family of three could make no more than \$47,856 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state’s median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Tennessee had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 17,260 children in Tennessee, a decrease of 2.8% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Tennessee made 16,701 home visits to 3,115 participants in 1,569 households.⁶⁵

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 Tennessee decreased from 61,621 in 2017 to 49,671 in 2018, a 19.4% change. There was a 22,769-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 10.8% from 2017.²⁰
- In Tennessee in 2017, 666,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$190,891,768 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Tennessee, including 32.2% on basic assistance, 9.9% on child care, 0.8% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²

- \$60,869,388 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Tennessee, serving 127,814 participants.²³
- In 2017, Tennessee distributed \$598,990,132 in child support funds, an increase of 3.1% from 2013.²⁴
- 425,000 children in Tennessee lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 28% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Tennessee was 3.3. ²⁶
- 14.5% of households in Tennessee were food insecure on average in 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

- 919,969 children in Tennessee were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 5% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Tennessee had 103,293 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 2.5% from 2016, when 105,990 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Tennessee had 75,934 uninsured children.³⁴
- 7,431 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Tennessee in 2016.³⁵
- 597 infants under age 1 died in Tennessee in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Tennessee was 10.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 52.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 28 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 17,770 adults and adolescents and 71 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Tennessee.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 261,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Tennessee.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 15,000 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 Tennessee reached \$422,584,957.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 466 children in Tennessee aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 87.9% of high school students in Tennessee graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 24,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Tennessee were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 95,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 30.8% of young adults in Tennessee ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were 12 reports of children in Tennessee aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 63 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 129 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Tennessee in 2017, compared to 95 in 2016.⁴⁸

- 22,282 children younger than 18 were arrested in Tennessee in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,459 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 660 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Tennessee 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, Tennessee's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$31,147,709. The most utilized service in Tennessee was Case Management totaling \$9,328,700.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Tennessee spent \$733,893,368 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$330,262,087 was from federal funds and \$403,631,281 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$330,262,087 in federal funds received for child welfare, 30.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 59.2% was from Medicaid, 4.9% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 2.2% came from other federal sources.⁶²

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- Tennessee received \$99,891,687 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$1,354,300 for maintenance payments and \$3,617,300 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 (2018). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2018 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved February 15, 2019 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/tn/PST045218>.

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4 Ibid.

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6 U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

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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 five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

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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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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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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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