

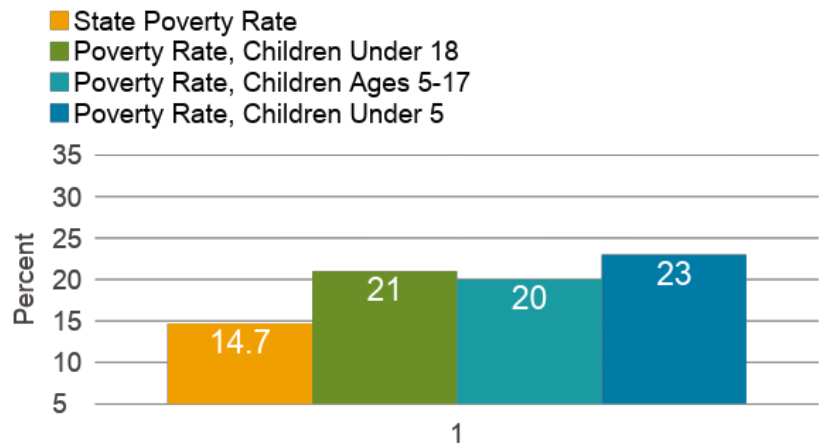
TEXAS' CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 28,701,845 | Population of Children Under 18: 7,462,479

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 18,183 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Texas, 38% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 5,361 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Texas in 2017, a decrease of 6.8% from 5,723 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 32,150 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 13,443 or 41.8% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 297,553 grandparents in Texas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 10,704 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, Texas had 255,037 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 198,083 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2017, there were 61,506 victims of abuse or neglect in Texas, a rate of 8.3 per 1,000 children, a decrease 4.8% from 2013. Of these children, 82.6% were neglected, 14.3% were physically abused, and 9.9% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 4.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
- In 2017, there were 186 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Texas.¹¹



- 32,150 children in Texas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 30,738 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 14,296 aged 5 or younger, and 2,860 were 16 or older.¹²

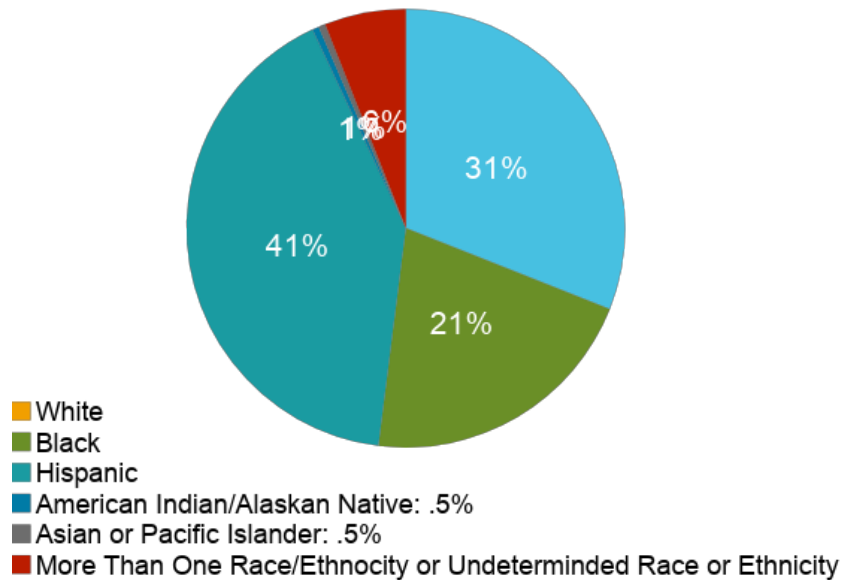
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Texas had a monthly average of 104,600 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 107,400 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 111,700 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Texas, a family of three could make no more than \$50,913 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Texas had 41,593 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 73,402 children in Texas, an increase of 0.2% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Texas made 56,204 home visits to 8,323 participants in 3,873 households.⁶⁵

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 4.4% 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 Texas decreased from 57,201 in 2016 to 61,621 in 2017, a 7.2% change. There was a 26,363-monthly average of families received TANF in 2017, a decrease of 6.1% from 2016.²⁰
- In Texas in 2017, 3,282,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹
- \$936,118,118 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Texas, including 5.8% on basic assistance, 37.5% on child care, 0.4% on transportation, and 28.3% on non-assistance.²²

- \$237,434,220 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Texas, serving 746,246 participants.²³
- In 2017, Texas distributed \$4,090,214,243 in child support funds, an increase of 13.4% from 2013.²⁴
- 2,287,000 children in Texas lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 31% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Texas was 3.7.²⁶
- 15.4% of households in Texas 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

- 3,515,263 children in Texas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.6% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Texas had 1,137,899 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 5.5% from 2016, when 1,075,212 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Texas had 836,178 uninsured children.³⁴
- 33,445 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Texas in 2016.³⁵
- 2,287 infants under age 1 died in Texas in 2017.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Texas was 12.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 51.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 31 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 97,391 adults and adolescents and 411 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Texas.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 1,001,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Texas.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 38,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 61,000 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 Texas reached \$1,963,623,647.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 1,210 children in Texas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 89% of high school students in Texas graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 127,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Texas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 425,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 29.8% of young adults in Texas ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were 53 reports of children in Texas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 260 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 252 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Texas in 2017, compared to 291 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 57,417 children younger than 18 were arrested in Texas in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 3,723 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹

- 4,299 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Texas in 2017.⁵⁰

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, Texas's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$131,694,234. The most utilized service in Texas was Protective Services for Adults totaling \$37,391,034.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TEXAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Texas spent \$1,558,371,303 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$730,329,297 was from federal funds and \$828,042,006 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$730,329,297 in federal funds received for child welfare, 43.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.7% was from Medicaid, 0.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 39.5 % was from TANF, and 8.4% came from other federal sources.⁶²
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- Texas received \$319,557,469 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$95,503,752 for maintenance payments and \$81,892,201 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

1 "At A Glance" statistics are from 2018.

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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 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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