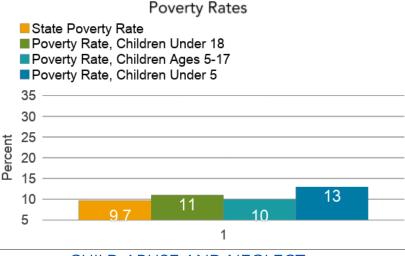
# UTAH'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 3,161,105 | Population of Children Under 18: 945,170

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

- Of the 2,108 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Utah, 40% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.
- 665 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Utah in 2017, an increase of 4.9% from 632 in 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 2,954 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 802 or 27.1% waiting to be adopted.<sub>17</sub>
- In 2017, approximately 18,651 grandparents in Utah had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.
- 760 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>



#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Utah had 39,222 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,736 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2017, there were 9,947 victims of abuse or neglect in Utah, a rate of 10.7 per 1,000 children, an increase of 6.9% from 2013. Of these children, 29.4% were neglected, 45% were physically abused, and 17.2% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 6.9% in comparison to the number of victims in  $2013._{10}$
- In 2017, there were 13 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Utah.<sub>11</sub>



2,954 children in Utah lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 2,838 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2014, there were 1,003 aged 5 or younger, and 641 were 16 or older.<sub>12</sub>

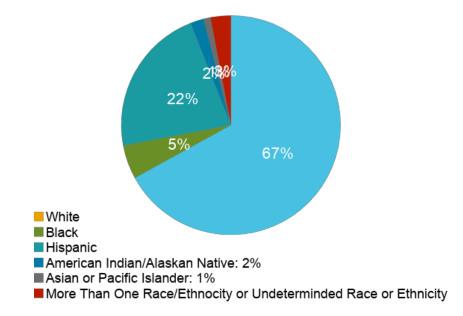
# CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Utah had a monthly average of 12,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 11,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 10,800 were recipients in 2015.28
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Utah, a family of three could make no more than \$35,676 at application, which is equivalent to 58% of the
  - state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2016, Utah had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30
- In 2017, Head Start served 5,715 children in Utah, an increase of 9.9% from 2015 31
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Utah made 13,644 home visits to 1,694 participants in 932 households.65

The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.9% 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 Utah decreased from 9,128 in 2017 to 8,699 in 2018, a 4.7% change. There was a 3,625-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 2.6% from 2017.<sup>20</sup>
- In Utah in 2016, 294,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.<sub>21</sub>

- \$75,355,939 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Utah, including 18.3% on basic assistance, 8.4% on child care, 0.3% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.<sub>22</sub>
- \$22,497,841 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Utah, serving 48,989 participants.<sub>23</sub>
- In 2017, Utah distributed \$211,549,807 in child support funds, an increase of 5.4% from 2013. $_{24}$
- 220,000 children in Utah lived in households with a high housing burden in 2014, where more than 24% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sub>25</sub>
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Utah was 3.2.  $_{26}$
- 12.5% of households in Utah were food insecure on average from in 2016, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.<sub>27</sub>

#### HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- $_{\rm a}$  247,106 children in Utah were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 2.5% from 2016. $_{\rm 32}$
- In 2017, Utah had 62,140 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 5.9% from 2016, when 58,410 children were enrolled.<sub>33</sub>
- In 2017, Utah had 76,448 uninsured children.<sub>34</sub>
- $_{ t a}$  3,622 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Utah in 2016. $_{ t 35}$
- $_{
  m 274}$  infants under age 1 died in Utah in 2016 $_{
  m 36}$
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Utah was 5.8 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 30.1 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 16 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 2,954 adults and adolescents and 21 children younger than 21 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Utah.<sub>38</sub>

- In 2017, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 114,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Utah.<sub>39</sub>
- In 2017, approximately 5,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40
- In 2017, approximately 8,000 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 Utah reached \$237,756,799.

#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- 193 children in Utah aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sub>42</sub>
- 84.8% of high school students in Utah graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.<sub>43</sub>
- $_{ t a}$  12,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Utah were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.44
- 37,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sub>45</sub>
- $_{ t a}$  32.3% of young adults in Utah ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017. $_{ t a6}$
- In 2017, there were 11 reports of children in Utah aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 52 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47

# JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Utah in 2017, compared to 33 in 2016. $_{48}$
- 11,259 children younger than 18 were arrested in Utah in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 304 of the arrests in 2017.<sub>49</sub>

453 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Utah 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.<sub>53</sub>
- 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. 54

- 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.<sub>58</sub>

#### SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

In 2016, Utah's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$14,322,309. The most utilized service in Utah was Case Management totaling \$2,890,495.60

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR UTAH'S CHILDREN

- In 2017, Utah spent \$183,015,948 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$75,999,895 was from federal funds and \$107,016,053 was from state and local funds.
- In 2017, of the \$75,999,895 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 20.4% was from Medicaid, 24.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0.3% was from TANF, and 4.5% came from other federal sources.
- Utah received \$32,557,884 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2017, including \$0 for maintenance payments and \$3,980,309 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.

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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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National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-based estimated totals (in thousands) (50 States and the District of Columbia): Table 25:

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safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling

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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