Poverty Rates

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Percent</th>
<th>11.3</th>
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CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- Of the 745 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Vermont, 51% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.15
- 287 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Vermont in 2017, an increase of 24.7% from 216 in 2016.16
- Of the 1,270 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 329 or 25.9% waiting to be adopted.17
- In 2017, approximately 2,896 grandparents in Vermont had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.18
- 416 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.19

- In 2017, Vermont had 19,756 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,320 reports were referred for investigation.8
  - In 2017, there were 878 victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont, a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 children, an increase 17.7% from 2013. Of these children, 2.4% were neglected, 57.9% were physically abused, and 41.7% were sexually abused.9
  - The number of child victims has increased 17.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.10
  - In 2017, there were no child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Vermont.11
1,270 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 1,323 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 520 aged 5 or younger, and 206 were 16 or older.

The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 4% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Vermont had a monthly average of 4,300 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 4,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 4,300 were recipients in 2015.
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than $60,480 at application, which is equivalent to 85% of the state’s median income.
- As of early 2017, Vermont had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.
- In 2017, Head Start served 1,473 children in Vermont, a decrease of 2% from 2015.
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Utah made 3,215 home visits to 683 participants in 382 households.

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2016

- In 2017, 40,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.
- $47,196,916 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Vermont, including 32.3% on basic assistance, 46.1% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 3.5% on non-assistance.
$6,123,465 was spent in 2017 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Vermont, serving 11,427 participants.23

In 2017, Vermont distributed $42,203,355 in child support funds, an increase of 6.2% from 2013.24

35,000 children in Vermont lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25

In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Vermont was 2.6.26

12.1% of households in Vermont 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**

73,843 children in Vermont were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 3.9% from 2016.32

In 2017, Vermont had 5,841 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 9.2% from 2016, when 5,305 children were enrolled.33

In 2017, Vermont had 2,606 uninsured children.34

394 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Vermont in 2016.35

19 infants under age 1 died in Vermont in 2016.36

In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Vermont was 3.6 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 16.8 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 10 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37

Cumulative through 2017, there were 572 adults and adolescents and 6 children younger than 6 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Vermont.38

In 2017, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 38,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Vermont.39
In 2017, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\textsuperscript{40}

In 2017, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\textsuperscript{41}

In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Vermont reached $38,109,065.\textsuperscript{64}

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**

57 children in Vermont aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.\textsuperscript{42}

87.7\% of high school students in Vermont graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.\textsuperscript{43}

3,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Vermont were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.\textsuperscript{44}

7,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.\textsuperscript{45}

39.7\% of young adults in Vermont ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2017.\textsuperscript{46}

In 2017, there were no reports of children in Vermont aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and no reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.\textsuperscript{47}

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

There were no reports of any children age 19 or under killed by a firearm in Vermont in 2017, compared no reports in 2016.\textsuperscript{48}

800 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 51 of the arrests in 2017.\textsuperscript{49}

27 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont in 2015.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{53}

- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.\textsuperscript{54} Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.\textsuperscript{55}

Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{58}

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, Vermont’s sum of expenditures for services totaled $3,095,990. The most utilized service in Vermont was Day-Care for Children totaling $866,934\textsuperscript{60}

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT’S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Vermont spent $43,558,586 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $23,837,536 was from federal funds and $19,721,050 was from state and local funds.\textsuperscript{61}
In 2016, of the $23,837,536 in federal funds received for child welfare, 95.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.3% 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.\textsuperscript{62}

Vermont received $2,822,854 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including $4,893,552 for maintenance payments and $6,294,765 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.\textsuperscript{63}

\begin{flushleft}
1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2018.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid
7 Ibid.
\end{flushleft}
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.


Note: The five and younger number 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.

30 Ibid.

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).


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.


51 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.


53 Ibid.


58 Ibid.


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.

62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.
