

WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2019

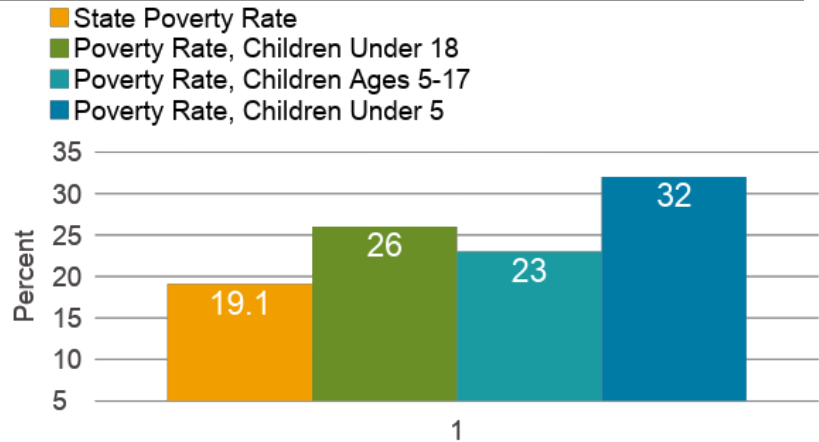
State Population: 1,805,832 | Population of Children Under 18: 368,389

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,808 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in West Virginia, 58% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 1,069 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in West Virginia in 2017, an increase of 12.1% from 940 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 6,633 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 2,403 or 36.2% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 22,454 grandparents in West Virginia had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 1,262 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, West Virginia had 39,737 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,219 reports were referred for investigation.⁸

- In 2017, there were 6,496 victims of abuse or neglect in West Virginia, a rate of 17.6 per 1,000 children, an increase of 38.4% from 2013. Of these children, 40.5% were neglected, 78.2% were physically abused, and 3.5% were sexually abused.⁹

- The number of child victims has increased 38.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰



- In 2017, there were 18 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in West Virginia.¹¹
- 6,633 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 5,973 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 2,417 aged 5 or younger, and 869 were 16 or older.¹²

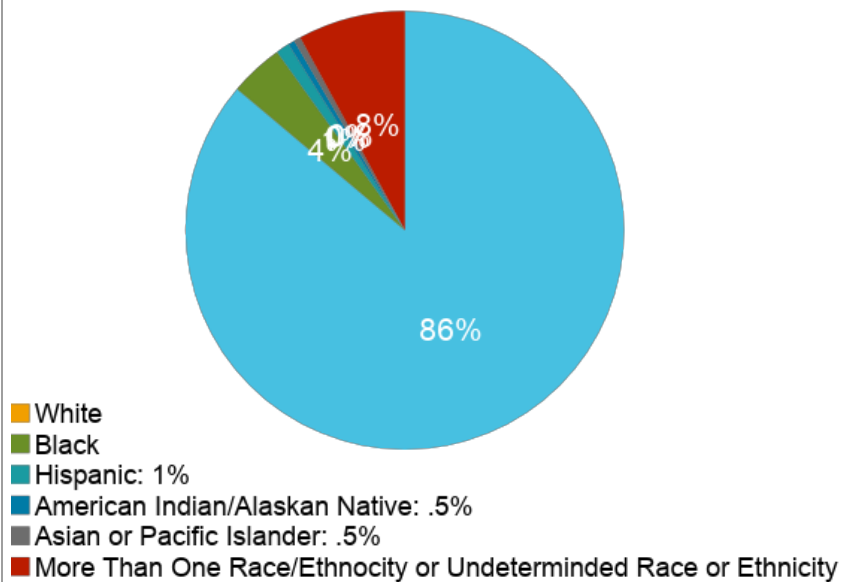
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, West Virginia had a monthly average of 7,100 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 7,800 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 8,200 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in West Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$29,688 at application, which is equivalent to 51% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, West Virginia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 7,947 children in West Virginia, a decrease of 2.3% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in West Virginia made 20,302 home visits to 4,465 participants in 1,962 households.⁶⁵

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 10% 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 West Virginia increased from 13,192 in 2017 to 14,104 in 2018, a 6.5% change. There was a 6,698-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 5% from 2017.²⁰
- In West Virginia in 2017, 172,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹

- \$109,812,728 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in West Virginia, including 24.4% on basic assistance, 13.9% on child care, 12.6% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²
- \$16,648,043 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in West Virginia, serving 35,412 participants.²³
- In 2017, West Virginia distributed \$178,978,477 in child support funds, a decrease of 8.9% from 2013.²⁴
- 87,000 children in West Virginia lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 23% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in West Virginia was 5.1. ²⁶
- 14.6% of households in West Virginia 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

- 245,725 children in West Virginia were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 0.9% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, West Virginia had 37,464 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 22.3% from 2016, when 48,187 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, West Virginia had 13,310 uninsured children.³⁴
- 1,835 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in West Virginia in 2016.³⁵
- 139 infants under age 1 died in West Virginia in 2016.³⁶
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in West Virginia was 9.3 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 53.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 29 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷

- Cumulative through 2017, there were 2,040 adults and adolescents and 11 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.³⁸
- In 2017, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 67,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in West Virginia.³⁹
- In 2017, approximately 4,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2017, approximately 2,000 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 West Virginia reached \$99,567,256.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 59 children in West Virginia aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 86.5% of high school students in West Virginia graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 10,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in West Virginia were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 32,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 25.3% of young adults in West Virginia ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in West Virginia aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 10 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- No children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in West Virginia in 2017, compared to 18 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 1,033 children younger than 18 were arrested in West Virginia in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 57 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹
- 567 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia 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, West Virginia's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$9,145,134. The most utilized service in West Virginia was Protective Services for Children totaling \$5,925,252.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, West Virginia spent \$267,066,025 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$129,360,633 was from federal funds and \$137,705,392 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2016, of the \$129,360,633 in federal funds received for child welfare, 58.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8.7% was from Medicaid, 15.6% came from Social Services Block Grant, 5.2% was from TANF, and 1.3% came from other federal sources.⁶²

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- West Virginia received \$13,453,456 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$7,688,452 for maintenance payments and \$5,765,004 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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3 Ibid.

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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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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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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