

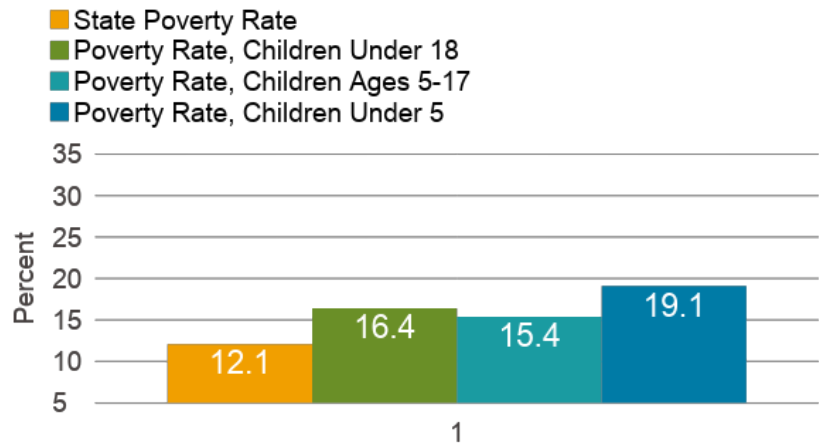
WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 5,813,568 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,284,798

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,512 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Wisconsin, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 692 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Wisconsin in 2017, an increase of 3.3% from 669 in 2016.¹⁶
- Of the 7,721 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 1,397 or 18.1% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2017, approximately 26,248 grandparents in Wisconsin had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- 2,774 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, Wisconsin had 78,568 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 27,140 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
 - In 2017, there were 4,902 victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin, a rate of 3.8 per 1,000 children, an increase 8.3% from 2013. Of these children, 67.4% were neglected, 16.1% were physically abused, and 20.6% were sexually abused.⁹
 - The number of child victims has increased 8.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.¹⁰
 - In 2017, there were 31 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Wisconsin.¹¹



- 7,721 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 7,382 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 3,007 aged 5 or younger, and 921 were 16 or older.¹²

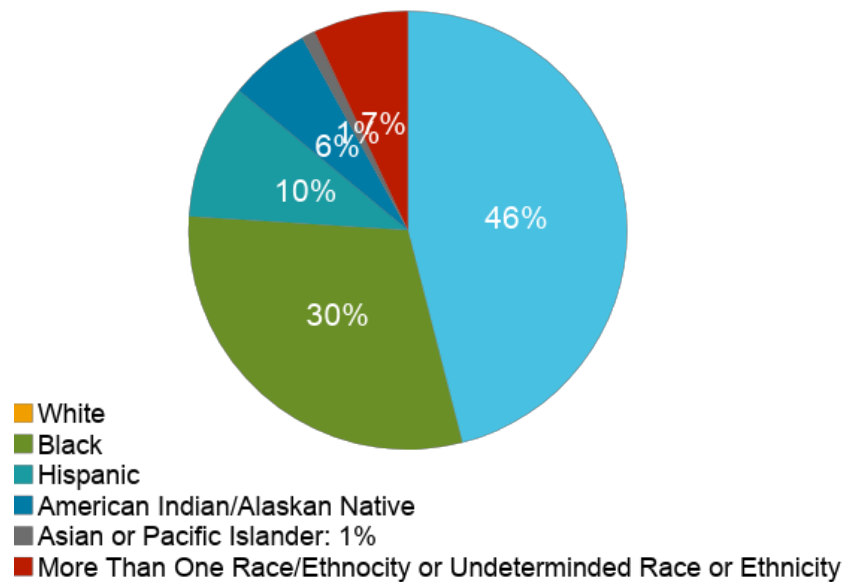
CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 16,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 27,700 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 27,700 were recipients in 2015.²⁸
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$37,777 at application, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2017, Wisconsin had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2017, Head Start served 13,820 children in Wisconsin, an increase of 5.1% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Wisconsin made 18,303 home visits to 2,897 participants in 1,477 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 Wisconsin decreased from 34,405 in 2017 to 32,567 in 2018, a 5.3% change. There was a 15,373-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, a decrease of 4.9% from 2017.²⁰
- In Wisconsin in 2017, 436,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.²¹

- \$346,069,120 was spent in 2017 on TANF assistance in Wisconsin, including 24.8% on basic assistance, 42.1% on child care, 0.5% on transportation, and 0.0% on non-assistance.²²
- \$41,376,024 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wisconsin, serving 92,443 participants.²³
- In 2017, Wisconsin distributed \$646,836,291 in child support funds, an increase of 4.1% from 2013.²⁴
- 315,000 children in Wisconsin lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 25% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In December of 2016, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 3.0. ²⁶
- 10.5% of households in Wisconsin 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

- 530,369 children in Wisconsin were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017 , a decrease of 2% from 2016.³²
- In 2017, Wisconsin had 179,342 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 4.3% from 2016, when 171,552 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2017, Wisconsin had 56,129 uninsured children.³⁴
- 4,925 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wisconsin in 2016.³⁵
- 422 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Wisconsin was 5.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 25.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 15 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 6,083 adults and adolescents and 39 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.³⁸

- In 2017, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 329,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Wisconsin.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 11,000 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 Wisconsin reached \$408,893,103.⁶⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 329 children in Wisconsin aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.⁴²
- 88.4% of high school students in Wisconsin graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.⁴³
- 15,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Wisconsin were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 52,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- 34.7% of young adults in Wisconsin ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017.⁴⁶
- In 2017, there 12 reports of children in Wisconsin aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 53 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 48 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin in 2017, compared to 57 in 2016.⁴⁸
- 39,393 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin in 2015. Violent crimes were the reason for 1,067 of the arrests in 2017.⁴⁹

- 762 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$28,449,475. The most utilized service in Wisconsin was Other Services totaling \$6,077,173.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Wisconsin spent \$463,302,711 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$162,599,091 was from federal funds and \$300,703,620 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
 - In 2016, of the \$162,599,091 in federal funds received for child welfare, 72.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2.9% was from Medicaid, 6.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 0.1% was from TANF, and 11.9% came from other federal sources.⁶²
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- Wisconsin received \$6,959,295 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$0 for maintenance payments and \$6,959,295 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/wi/PST045218>.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid

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/>.

7 Ibid.

8 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: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2017. Retrieved February 19, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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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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12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). FY 2008 – FY 2017 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2008–FY 2017. Retrieved February 22, 2016 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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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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