

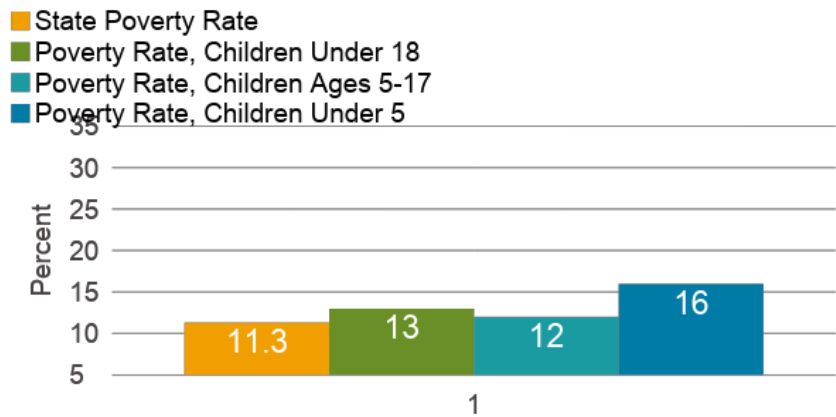
# WYOMING'S CHILDREN 2019

State Population: 577,737 | Population of Children Under 18: 136,345

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

- Of the 977 children exiting out-of-home care in 2017 in Wyoming, 67% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 82 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Wyoming in 2017, a decrease 8.5% from 89 in 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 1,085 children in out-of-home care in 2017, there were 69 or 6.4% waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 4,435 grandparents in Wyoming had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- 270 of the children in out-of-home care in 2016 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>

## Poverty Rates



## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2017, Wyoming had 7,445 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,999 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
  - In 2017, there were 950 victims of abuse or neglect in Wyoming, a rate of 7.0 per 1,000 children, an increase 31.9% from 2013. Of these children, 74.8% were neglected, 1.5% were physically abused, and 6.6% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
  - The number of child victims has increased 31.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2013.<sup>10</sup>
  - In 2017, there were 4 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Wyoming.<sup>11</sup>



- 1,085 children in Wyoming lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2017, compared with 933 children in 2016. Of the children living apart from their families in 2016, there were 362 aged 5 or younger, and 146 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>

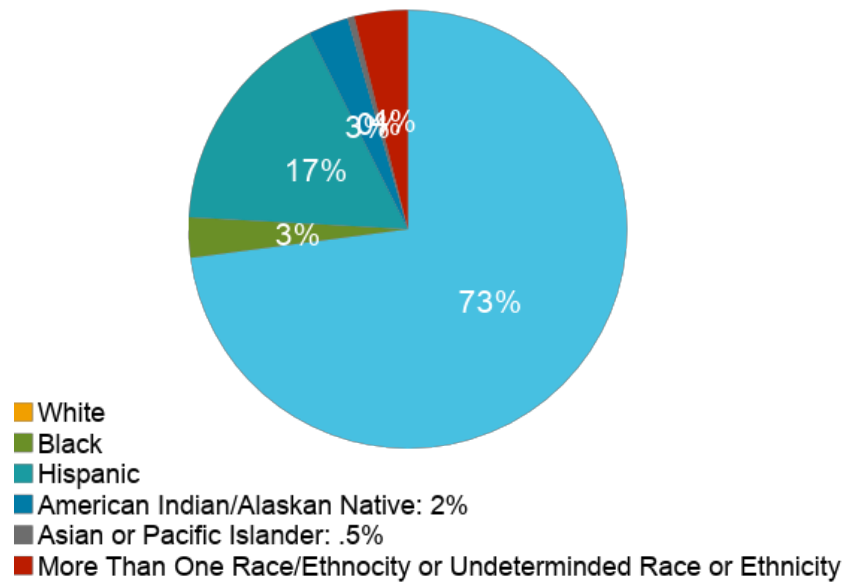
### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2017, Wyoming had a monthly average of 3,000 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 3,000 children received subsidized child care per month in 2016 and 3,200 were recipients in 2015.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2017, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wyoming, a family of three could make no more than \$37,680 at application, which is equivalent to 55% of the state’s median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2017, Wyoming had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2017, Head Start served 1,590 children in Wyoming, an increase of 7.8% from 2014.<sup>31</sup>
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2017, home visitors in Wyoming made 1,837 home visits to 394 participants in 180 households.<sup>65</sup>

- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 14% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2016.<sup>13</sup>

### 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 Wyoming increased from 1,257 in 2017 to 1,253 in 2018, a 0.3% change. There was a 538-monthly average of families received TANF in 2018, an increase of 0.6% from 2017.<sup>20</sup>
- In Wyoming in 2017, 47,000 children lived below 200% of poverty.<sup>21</sup>
- \$18,428,651 was spent in 2015 on TANF assistance in Wyoming, including 36.4% on basic assistance, 8.4% on child care, 1.5% on transportation, and 2.0% on non-assistance.<sup>22</sup>

- \$3,504,186 was spent in 2018 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wyoming, serving 9,062 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2017, Wyoming distributed \$60,923,456 in child support funds, a decrease of 5.3% from 2013.<sup>24</sup>
- 28,000 children in Wyoming lived in households with a high housing burden in 2016, where more than 20% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.<sup>25</sup>
- In December of 2018, the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 4.1. <sup>26</sup>
- 12.6% of households in Wyoming 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.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 43,169 children in Wyoming were enrolled in Medicaid in 2017, an increase of 8.5% from 2016.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2017, Wyoming had 7,088 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a decrease of 3.5% from 2014, when 7,387 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2017, Wyoming had 10,525 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>
- 628 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wyoming in 2016.<sup>35</sup>
- 37 infants under age 1 died in Wyoming in 2016.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2017, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Wyoming was 8.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 49.6 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 26 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2017, there were 348 adults and adolescents and 2 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wyoming.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2017, an estimated 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year and 29,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on alcohol or used heroin in the past year in Wyoming.<sup>39</sup>

- In 2014, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2017, approximately 1,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Wyoming reached \$26,915,476.<sup>64</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 13 children in Wyoming aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2016.<sup>42</sup>
- 79.3% of high school students in Wyoming graduated on time at the end of the 2014-15 year.<sup>43</sup>
- 2,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Wyoming were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.<sup>44</sup>
- 6,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.<sup>45</sup>
- 27.8% of young adults in Wyoming ages 25 to 34 had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2017.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Wyoming aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 13 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- No children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wyoming in 2017, compared to 11 in 2015.<sup>48</sup>
- 3,046 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wyoming in 2017. Violent crimes were the reason for 35 of the arrests in 2017.<sup>49</sup>
- 177 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wyoming in 2015.<sup>50</sup>

## 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.*<sup>52</sup>

- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>

*Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.*<sup>56</sup>

- 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.<sup>57</sup>
- 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.<sup>58</sup>

## SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2016, Wyoming's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$2,886,437. The most utilized service in Wyoming was Residential Treatment totaling \$952,152.<sup>60</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WYOMING'S CHILDREN

- In 2016, Wyoming spent \$51,768,183 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$20,106,898 was from federal funds and \$31,661,285 was from state and local funds.<sup>61</sup>

- In 2016, of the \$20,106,898 in federal funds received for child welfare, 18.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 14.4% came from Social Services Block Grant, 61% was from TANF, and 2.7% came from other federal sources.<sup>62</sup>

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- Wyoming received \$2,467,129 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2016, including \$351,897 for maintenance payments and \$2,115,232 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>63</sup>

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/wy/PST045218>.

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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/>.

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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>.

9 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 3-4: Child Victims, 2013-2017. Retrieved February 19, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf>.

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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Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. (2015). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Age Group, 2016, 16-20 age group (Number). Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/870/2619/12988>

Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

14 Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2017). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2016(Percent). Retrieved February 22, 2019 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/36/false/870/2638,2601,2600,2598,2603,2597,2602,1353/12992,12993>

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Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 2008– FY 2017. Retrieved February 5, 2019 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>.

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20 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2019). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2018: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf\\_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/tanf_totalnumrecipients2018.pdf).

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2018). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2017: Table: Total Families. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/2017\\_family\\_tan.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/2017_family_tan.pdf).



Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.

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Note: The percentages are 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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31 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2018). Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2017. Retrieved February 22, 2019 from [https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2017\\_0.pdf](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/hs-program-fact-sheet-2017_0.pdf).

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

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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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