



# The State of Missouri's Children: 2017

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*The 2016 federal poverty guideline for a family of four is \$24,300.<sup>1</sup> In Missouri, a person would need to earn \$24,265.80 per year to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment. This would mean working 61 hours per week at the Missouri minimum wage of \$7.65 per hour.<sup>2</sup>*

## Poverty and Missouri's Children

- In Missouri, the poverty rate was 15.5% overall in 2014, which was equivalent to the poverty rate for the country.<sup>3</sup>
- However, the poverty rate for children is higher. In 2014, 21.3% of children under 18 were living in poverty, which increased from 21.0% in 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- For children under 6, the rate is even higher. In 2014, 24.7% of children under 6 were living in poverty, which was down slightly from 25.5% in 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- The child poverty rate varies greatly by race, from 41.0% for Black/African American children to 35.2% for Hispanic/Latino children to 24.0% for American Indian children to 17.1% for White children to 12.6% for Asian children.<sup>3</sup>
- The number of children living in concentrated poverty, meaning areas of high poverty, has increased in Missouri by 88% since 2000. The number jumped from 74,000 in 2000 to 139,000 in 2014.<sup>3</sup>

## Education of Missouri's Children

### Child Care and Preschool

- In Missouri, there are 170,464 children under age 6 in two-parent families with both parents in the labor force. There are 118,373 children under age 6 in single-parent families with the parent in the labor force. Taken together, there are 288,837 children in Missouri in potential need of child care.<sup>4</sup>
- However, there are only an estimated 163,734 spaces in child care programs, with 79% being in child care centers, 15% in school-age care programs, and 6% in licensed family child care homes.<sup>4</sup>
- The cost of center-based infant care averages \$9,100 per year compared to \$5,720 for family-based child care. For a four-year-old child, the cost averages \$6,396 at a center and \$4,992 for family-based child care.<sup>4</sup>

### Missouri Public Schools

- As of the 2011-2012 school year, there were 916,584 students enrolled in public schools in Missouri. 75% of students were in Title I schools.<sup>5</sup>
- Missouri has 2,432 public schools and 62 charter schools.<sup>5</sup>
- Per-pupil expenditures averaged \$9,468, and the pupil to teacher ratio was 13.8.<sup>5</sup>
- Missouri students' performance in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is as follows. Data on reading, math, and science are shown from 2015, and data on writing is shown from 2002 and 2007.

	Reading		Math		Writing		Science	
	At or above proficient	At or above basic	At or above proficient	At or above basic	At or above proficient	At or above basic	At or above proficient	At or above basic
<b>4th grade</b>	36% <sup>6</sup>	70% <sup>6</sup>	38% <sup>7</sup>	82% <sup>7</sup>	22% <sup>8*</sup>	86% <sup>8*</sup>	39% <sup>9</sup>	78% <sup>9</sup>
<b>8th grade</b>	36% <sup>10</sup>	77% <sup>10</sup>	31% <sup>11</sup>	71% <sup>11</sup>	26% <sup>12**</sup>	89% <sup>12**</sup>	40% <sup>13</sup>	75% <sup>13</sup>

\*The most recent available data are from 2002.

\*\*The most recent available data are from 2007.

## Health of Missouri's Children

### Health at Birth

- In 2014, 30,345 infants in Missouri were born with low birthweight, which was 8.0% of infants born.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2014, there were 2,418 cases of infant mortality in Missouri, which is a rate of 6.4 per 1,000 live births.<sup>3</sup>

### Health Insurance for Children

- The percentage of children under 18 in Missouri with health insurance is 92.8%, which is down from 93.8% in 2010 and is less than the national rate of 94.0%.<sup>3</sup>
- 36.1% of children were eligible for MO HealthNET for KIDS in 2014.<sup>3</sup>

### Childhood Obesity

- The 2014 obesity rate for children ages 2 to 4 who are participating in WIC was 13.0%. For 10 to 17 year olds, the rate was 13.5%.<sup>14</sup>

## ***Welfare of Missouri's Children***

### ***Child Abuse and Neglect***

- In 2014, there were 61,463 substantiated child abuse/neglect cases and family assessments in Missouri. This increased from 2010 when there were 45,441 cases. Family assessments increased by 38.2% during this time, which accounts for much of this increase in cases.<sup>3</sup>
- The majority of substantiated cases were neglect (64.1%), followed by physical abuse (29.8%), sexual abuse (22.6%), emotional abuse (7.7%), medical neglect (4.2%), and emotional neglect (1.4%).<sup>3</sup>

### ***Foster Care and Adoption***

- In fiscal year 2015, there were 19,429 children in Missouri Children's Division custody, which was an increase of 6.2% from the prior year. There were also 7,128 re-entries to (an increase of 1.3%) and 6,646 exits from (a 12.1% increase) Children's Division custody.<sup>15</sup>
- Finalized adoptions increased by 5.0% in the 2015 fiscal year, with 1,312 adoptions finalized.<sup>15</sup>

## ***Teen Pregnancy in Missouri***

- In 2011, 61 babies were born to girls under 15 years old, 1,871 to girls ages 15-17, and 5,073 to girls ages 18-19.<sup>16</sup>
- The teen birth rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) was 34.5 in 2011, which is higher than the national teen birth rate of 31.3 per 1,000 girls.<sup>16</sup>
- Of births to girls under age 20, 65% were to Non-Hispanic White mothers, 26% to Non-Hispanic Black mothers, 7% to Hispanic mothers, 1% to American Indian or Alaska Native mothers, and 1% to Asian or Pacific Islander mothers.<sup>16</sup>
- 88% of births to girls under age 20 occurred outside of marriage.<sup>16</sup>
- The teen abortion rate (abortions per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) was 11 in 2011, which is lower than the national teen abortion rate of 18 per 1,000 girls.<sup>16</sup>
- Data on teen sexual activity in Missouri, such as the percentage of teens who are sexually active or use contraception were not available.<sup>16</sup>

## ***Substance Use by Missouri's Children***

- In a 2014 survey of Missouri public school students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, students reported the following rates of substance use.<sup>17</sup>

	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Electronic Cigarettes</b>	<b>Cigarettes</b>	<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>Hookah</b>	<b>Chewing Tobacco</b>	<b>Prescription Drugs</b>	<b>Synthetic Drugs</b>	<b>Inhalants</b>
<b>Lifetime</b>	33.3%	16.0%	19.1%	15.2%	11.3%	9.8%	7.5%	3.2%	2.9%
<b>Past 30 Days</b>	13.9%	10.2%	8.1%	7.6%	7.3%	5.0%	3.7%	0.8%	1.1%

- In this survey, 1.1% of students reported having used cocaine, 0.3% heroin, 1.9% hallucinogens, 0.5% methamphetamine, 1.6% club drugs, and 0.9% steroids in their lifetime. Data are not available for the use of these substances in the past 30 days.<sup>17</sup>
- Compared to 2012, the percentage using alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, chewing tobacco, prescription drugs, over-the-counter meds, inhalants, and synthetic drugs decreased.<sup>17</sup>

## ***Juvenile Delinquency by Missouri's Children***

- In 2014, the rate of referrals to juvenile courts was 29.7 per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17 in Missouri. This was a decrease compared to 2010, when the rate was 50.8 per 1,000 youth.<sup>18</sup>
- As of 2013, there were 1,053 youth under age 21 detained, incarcerated, or living in residential facilities in Missouri.<sup>19</sup>

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The Center for Family Policy & Research is housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri. The Center's mission is to create and disseminate research-based analyses to promote the well-being of families through informed public policy and program development.

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