

MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2009

Missouri's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	5,878,415
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,424,830
State Poverty Rate ³	12.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	22.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	21.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	18.9%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Missouri had 93,054 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 47,491 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 7,108 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Missouri, a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 20.5% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 3,674 were neglected, 2,220 were physically abused, and 2,039 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 43 children in Missouri died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 10,181 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,433 children in 2005. In 2006, 30.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Missouri children in out-of-home care in 2006, 63.8% were white, 31.6% black, 2.6% Hispanic, 0.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.4% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,376 children exiting out-of-home care in Missouri in 2006, 57% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 1,253 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Missouri, a 4% decrease from 1,309 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 10,181 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 2,817 or 27.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 46,898 Missouri grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 10,181 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 18.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Missouri children in kinship care in 2006, 62.8% were white, 33.2% were black, 2.7% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Missouri decreased from 91,283 in March 2007 to 86,405 in March 2008, a decrease of 5.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 35,843, a 5.4% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Missouri was at 34.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Missouri spent \$323,472,629 in TANF funds, including 37.8% on basic assistance, , and 62.2% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Missouri spent \$52,465,647 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 134,642 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Missouri collected and distributed \$512,349,285 in child support funds, a 4.8% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Missouri was \$646 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.43 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Missouri had a monthly average of 33,600 children served by subsidized child care; 36,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 38,700 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri, a family of three could make no more than \$22,032, which is equivalent to 41% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Missouri had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 17,456 Missouri children, a 1.5% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 652,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri—54.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 27,835 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 27,835 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 4,024 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,101 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Missouri had 61,936 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.4% increase from 2006, when 61,097 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Missouri had 150,000 uninsured children, representing 10.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 6,347 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Missouri a rank of 32 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 590 infants under age 1 died in Missouri, giving it a rank of 34 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Missouri was 21 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 74. This reflects a total rate of 42 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 11,016 adults and adolescents, as well as 61 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Missouri.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 43,000 children ages 12–17, and 434,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Missouri.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 379 children aged out of out-of-home care in Missouri.³⁸
- In 2007, 25,000 Missouri teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 14% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 in Missouri needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 30,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 47 Missouri children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.84 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 35 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Missouri, a 13% increase from 31 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 40,093 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri, a 19.3% decrease from 49,659 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,431 were for violent crimes and 540 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,293 children in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Missouri spent \$411,368,975 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 54% was from federal funds, 46% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$222,606,617 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 17% from Medicaid, 12% from the Social Services Block Grant, 18% was TANF, and 5% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 10,181 children in out-of-home care in Missouri in 2006, only 3,777, or 37.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



MISSOURI'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁵¹
- 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 the 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
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Missouri was \$24,732; the median income for a family of four in Missouri was \$64,128.⁵⁴

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