

MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2009

Montana's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	957,861
Population, Children Under 18 ²	219,498
State Poverty Rate ³	13.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	15.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	21.1%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Montana had 12,620 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,737 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 1,775 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Montana, a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 15.3% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 1,248 were neglected, 214 were physically abused, and 149 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, one child in Montana died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 1,962 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,222 children in 2005. In 2006, 39.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 14.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Montana children in out-of-home care in 2006, 52.9% were white, 1.1% black, 5.9% Hispanic, 32.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.7% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,288 children exiting out-of-home care in Montana in 2006, 48% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 272 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, an 11% increase from 244 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 1,962 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 623 or 31.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 6,870 Montana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,962 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 32.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Montana children in kinship care in 2006, 50.2% were white, 0.5% were black, 5.4% were Hispanic, 37.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.3% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Montana decreased from 8,063 in March 2007 to 8,008 in March 2008, a decrease of 0.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 3,207, a 0.7% increase from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Montana was at 47.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Montana spent \$42,769,237 in TANF funds, including 38.6% on basic assistance, 3.66% on child care, and 52.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Montana spent \$8,660,534 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 19,279 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Montana collected and distributed \$51,768,012 in child support funds, a 3.7% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Montana was \$627 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.05 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Montana had a monthly average of 4,800 children served by subsidized child care; 5,200 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 5,100 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, a family of three could make no more than \$25,752, which is equivalent to 55% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Montana had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,919 Montana children, a 1.8% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 62,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana—54.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 4,191 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 4,191 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 779 received Targeted Case Management services, and 156 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Montana had 13,289 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.9% increase from 2006, when 13,165 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Montana had 28,000 uninsured children, representing 12.6% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 767 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Montana a rank of 6 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 81 infants under age 1 died in Montana, giving it a rank of 6 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 Montana was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60. This reflects a total rate of 35 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 373 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 11,000 children ages 12–17, and 86,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Montana.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 91 children aged out of out-of-home care in Montana.³⁸
- In 2007, 4,000 Montana teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 10% 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 5,000 children ages 12–17 in Montana needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 8,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 23 Montana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 8.9 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Montana, compared with none in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 6,950 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana. Of those arrests, 79 were for violent crimes and 36 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 243 children in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Montana spent \$61,681,929 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 50% was from federal funds, and 50% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$31,096,157 in federal funds received for child welfare, 38% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 6% from Medicaid, 6% from the Social Services Block Grant, 8% from TANF, and 36% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,962 children in out-of-home care in Montana in 2006, only 612, or 31.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



MONTANA'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 Montana was \$31,085; the median income for a family of four in Montana was \$49,124.⁵⁴

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