NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2009

North Carolina's Children At a Glance*

State Population[1] 9,061,032

Population, Children Under 18[2] 1,059,917

State Poverty Rate[3] 15.5%

Poverty Rate, Children Under 18[4] 21.0%

Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17[5] 20.5%

Poverty Rate, Children Under 5[6] 19.5%

**All statistics are for 2007.*

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 17,682 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Carolina, a rate of 13.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 14.5% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 14,814 were neglected, 1,817 were physically abused, and 1,378 were sexually abused.[7]
- In 2006, 11,115 children in North Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,698 children in 2005. In 2006, 37.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 16.0% were 16 or older.[8]
- Of North Carolina children in out-of-home care in 2006, 44.5% were white, 41.3% black, 7.8% Hispanic, 1.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.5% children of other races and ethnicities.[9]

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,577 children exiting out-of-home care in North Carolina in 2006, 44% were reunited with their parents or other family members.[10]
- In 2006, 1,234 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Carolina, a 3% increase from 1,203 in 2005.[11]
- Of the 11,115 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 3,143 or 28.3% were waiting to be adopted.[12]
- In 2007, approximately 87,075 North Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.[13]
- Of the 11,115 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 23.0% were living with relatives while in care.[14]
- Of all North Carolina children in kinship care in 2006, 44.3% were white, 41.4% were black, 6.2% were Hispanic, 3.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.9% were other races.[15]

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Carolina decreased from 47,665 in March 2007 to 44,066 in March 2008, a decrease of 7.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 23,673, a 7.2% decrease from March 2007.[16]
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Carolina was at 32.0% of the federal poverty guideline.[17]

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- In 2006, North Carolina spent $250,304,294 in TANF funds, including 37.7% on basic assistance, and 63.0% on nonassistance.[18]
- In 2007, North Carolina spent $113,667,969 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 242,135 participants.[19]
- In 2007, North Carolina collected and distributed $624,554,095 in child support funds, a 5.6% increase from 2006.[20]
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Carolina was $681 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was $13.09 per hour, working a 40-hour week.[21]

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, North Carolina had a monthly average of 79,900 children served by subsidized child care; 104,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 99,600 in 2004.[22]
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Carolina, a family of three could make no more than $36,684, which is equivalent to 73% of the state's median income.[23]
- As of early 2008, North Carolina had 27,153 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.[24]
- In 2007, Head Start served 18,963 North Carolina children, a 0.1% decrease from 2001.[25]

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 821,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina—52.5% of the total number of enrollees.[26]
- In 2005, 19,043 children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina on the basis of being in foster care.[27]
- In 2005, of the 19,043 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 5,784 received Targeted Case Management services, and none received Rehabilitative Services.[28]
- In 2007, North Carolina had 152,954 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.1% increase from 2006, when 144,148 children were enrolled.[29]
- In 2007, North Carolina had 272,000 uninsured children, representing 12.1% of its child population.[30]
- In 2005, 11,308 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Carolina a rank of 42 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).[31]
- In 2005, 1,083 infants under age 1 died in North Carolina, giving it a rank of 43 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).[32]
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in North Carolina was 26 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 85. This reflects a total rate of 48 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.[33]

- Cumulative through 2006, 15,954 adults and adolescents, as well as 118 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.[34]
- In 2006, an estimated 57,000 children ages 12–17, and 547,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Carolina.[35]

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 469 children aged out of out-of-home care in North Carolina.[36]
- In 2007, 40,000 North Carolina teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.[37]
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.[38]
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.[39]
- In 2006, approximately 33,000 children ages 12–17 in North Carolina needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.[40]
- In 2006, approximately 34,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.[41]
- In 2005, 59 North Carolina children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.38 per 100,000 children.[42]

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 46 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in North Carolina, a 64% increase from 28 in 2004.[43]
- In 2007, 45,412 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Carolina, a 1.6% increase from 44,691 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 2,409 were for violent crimes and 1,633 were for possession of a weapon.[44]
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,029 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina.[45]

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, North Carolina spent $421,092,078 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 51% was from federal funds, 19% from state funds, and 30.4% from local funds.[46]
- In 2006, of the $212,999,533 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 4% from the Social Services Block Grant, 47% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.[47]
- Out of 11,115 children in out-of-home care in North Carolina in 2006, only 4,237, or 38.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.[48]

NORTH CAROLINA'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.[49]
- 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.[50]
- 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.[51]

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