

# UTAH'S CHILDREN 2009

## Utah's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	2,645,330
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	816,822
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	12.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	10.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	9.7%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Utah had 30,940 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,206 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 13,043 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Utah, a rate of 16.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 0.8% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 2,754 were neglected, 1,949 were physically abused, and 2,322 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 13 children in Utah died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 2,427 children in Utah lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,285 children in 2005. In 2006, 25.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Utah children in out-of-home care in 2006, 63.9% were white, 5.0% black, 22.3% Hispanic, 4.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.2% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 1,956 children exiting out-of-home care in Utah in 2006, 32% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 503 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Utah, a 45% increase from 346 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,427 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 485 or 20.0% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 16,464 Utah grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 2,427 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 10.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Utah children in kinship care in 2006, 67.5% were white, 2.0% were black, 19.7% were Hispanic, 5.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.2% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Utah decreased from 12,130 in March 2007 to 11,364 in March 2008, a decrease of 6.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 4,670, a 7.5% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Utah was at 48.1% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>



- In 2006, Utah spent \$95,796,684 in TANF funds, including 38.5% on basic assistance, 2.61% on child care, 1.2% on transportation, and 57.6% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Utah spent \$21,143,562 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 64,182 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, Utah collected and distributed \$164,763,306 in child support funds, a 4.5% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Utah was \$703 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.52 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Utah had a monthly average of 13,000 children served by subsidized child care; 11,100 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 9,000 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Utah, a family of three could make no more than \$30,948, which is equivalent to 64% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, Utah had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 5,400 Utah children, a 0.1% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 171,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Utah—56.2% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 7,935 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Utah on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 7,935 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 3,006 received Targeted Case Management services, and 323 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, Utah had 25,095 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 29.8% decrease from 2006, when 35,724 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, Utah had 87,000 uninsured children, representing 10.4% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 3,520 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Utah a rank of 22 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 230 infants under age 1 died in Utah, giving it a rank of 18 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Utah was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 57. This reflects a total rate of 33 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 2,295 adults and adolescents, as well as 20 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Utah.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17, and 157,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Utah.<sup>37</sup>



## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 209 children aged out of out-of-home care in Utah.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 9,000 Utah teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 6% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 11% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 10,000 children ages 12–17 in Utah needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 11,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 29 Utah children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.23 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Utah, a 50% decrease from four in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 25,789 children younger than 18 were arrested in Utah, a 9.7% increase from 23,519 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 351 were for violent crimes and 391 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 864 children in juvenile correction facilities in Utah.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR UTAH'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Utah spent \$138,068,848 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 45% was from federal funds, and 55% from state funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$61,897,037 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 31% from Medicaid, 20% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 2% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 2,427 children in out-of-home care in Utah in 2006, only 967, or 39.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## UTAH'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.<sup>51</sup>



- 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 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.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Utah was \$26,437; the median income for a family of four in Utah was \$62,032.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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