

VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2009

Vermont's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	621,254
Population, Children Under 18 ²	131,353
State Poverty Rate ³	9.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	12.8%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Vermont had 12,231 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,315 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 861 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Vermont, a rate of 6.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 20.3% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 42 were neglected, 442 were physically abused, and 372 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, no children in Vermont died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 1,379 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,436 children in 2005. In 2006, 21.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 29.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Vermont children in out-of-home care in 2006, 94.4% were white, 3.4% black, 0.7% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 729 children exiting out-of-home care in Vermont in 2006, 57% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 164 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Vermont, a 1% decrease from 166 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 1,379 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 266 or 19.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 2,175 Vermont grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,379 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 11.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Vermont children in kinship care in 2006, 94.9% were white, 4.4% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Vermont decreased from 11,033 in March 2007 to 8,858 in March 2008, an decrease of 19.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 3,769, a 15.6% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Vermont was at 53.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Vermont spent \$64,084,089 in TANF funds, including 54.0% on basic assistance, 10.2% on transportation, and 35.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Vermont spent \$9,003,906 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 16,308 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Vermont collected and distributed \$46,771,660 in child support funds, an 1.5% of increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Vermont was \$836 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.07 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Vermont had a monthly average of 6,800 children served by subsidized child care; 6,100 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 3,300 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than \$31,032, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Vermont had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 1,552 Vermont children, a 1.3% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 68,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont—42.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 2,828 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 2,828 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 866 received Targeted Case Management services, and none received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Vermont had 2,820 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.4% decrease from 2006, when 3,012 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Vermont had 12,000 uninsured children, representing 9.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 393 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Vermont a rank of 1 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 42 infants under age 1 died in Vermont, giving it a rank of 1 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 Vermont was 8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 34. This reflects a total rate of 19 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵



- Cumulative through 2006, 461 adults and adolescents, as well as 6 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Vermont.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 51,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Vermont.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 104 children aged out of out-of-home care in Vermont.³⁸
- In 2007, 1,000 Vermont teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 5% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 9% people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in Vermont needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, six Vermont children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.63 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Vermont, the same as in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 1,836 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont, a 11.6% increase from 1,645 arrests in 2006. Of the arrests in 2007, 42 were for violent crimes and 23 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 54 children in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Vermont spent \$86,882,407 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 58% was from federal funds and 42% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$50,793,267 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 42% was from Medicaid, 10% came from Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 7% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,379 children in out-of-home care in Vermont in 2006, only 715, or 51.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



VERMONT'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 Vermont was \$34,611; the median income for a family of four in Vermont was \$65,876.⁵⁴



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