

WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN 2009

Washington's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	6,468,424
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,536,368
State Poverty Rate ³	10.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	12.7%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Washington had 76,276 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,698 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 7,294 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Washington, a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 children, representing an 8.0% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 5,971 were neglected, 1,264 were physically abused, and 441 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 21 children in Washington died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 10,457 children in Washington lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,068 children in 2005. In 2006, 45.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Washington children in out-of-home care in 2006, 54.5% were white, 10.4% black, 14.8% Hispanic, 8.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,163 children exiting out-of-home care in Washington in 2006, 62% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 1,196 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Washington, an 8% decrease from 1,305 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 10,457 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 2,388 or 22.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 40,370 Washington grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 10,457 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 36.0% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Washington children in kinship care in 2006, 52.3% were white, 11.1% were black, 14.0% were Hispanic, 9.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 13.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Washington decreased from 123,120 in March 2007 to 113,364 in March 2008, a decrease of 7.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 48,731, a 6.8% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Washington was at 47.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Washington spent \$633,319,800 in TANF funds, including 44.9% on basic assistance, and 55.1% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Washington spent \$80,056,758 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 165,168 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Washington collected and distributed \$644,221,050 in child support funds, a 2.8% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Washington was \$829 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.95 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Washington had a monthly average of 53,200 children served by subsidized child care; 53,900 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 54,900 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Washington, a family of three could make no more than \$34,344, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Washington had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 11,278 Washington children, a 1.5% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 606,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Washington—50.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 19,094 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Washington on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 19,094 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 1,552 received Targeted Case Management services, and 575 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Washington had 18,975 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.0% increase from 2006, when 18,790 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Washington had 106,000 uninsured children, representing 6.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 5,041 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Washington a rank of 27 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 421 infants under age 1 died in Washington, giving it a rank of 27 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 Washington was 15 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 55. This reflects a total rate of 31 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵



- Cumulative through 2006, 11,792 adults and adolescents, as well as 34 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Washington.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 46,000 children ages 12–17, and 457,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Washington.³⁷

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2006, 382 children aged out of out-of-home care in Washington.³⁸
- In 2007, 25,000 Washington teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 8% 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 24,000 children ages 12–17 in Washington 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, 56 Washington children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.18 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2005, 16 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Washington, a 14% increase from 14 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 35,096 children younger than 18 were arrested in Washington, a 0.6% increase from 34,902 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,440 were for violent crimes and 778 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,455 children in juvenile correction facilities in Washington.⁴⁷

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R W A S H I N G T O N ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2006, Washington spent \$481,137,381 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 49% was from federal funds, and 51% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$234,040,620 in federal funds received for child welfare, 50% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 13% from Medicaid, 15% from the Social Services Block Grant, 8% from TANF, and 10% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 10,457 children in out-of-home care in Washington in 2006, only 3,781, or 36.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



WASHINGTON'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 Washington was \$34,932; the median income for a family of four in Washington was \$69,130.⁵⁴

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