

W I S C O N S I N ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 9

Wisconsin's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	5,601,640
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,321,279
State Poverty Rate ³	11.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	15.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	14.4%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Wisconsin had 50780 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,029 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 8,583 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wisconsin, a rate of 6.5 per 1,000 children, representing an 11.4% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 2,567 were neglected, 1,218 were physically abused, and 3,007 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 13 children in Wisconsin died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 7,641 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,109 children in 2005. In 2006, 28.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Wisconsin children in out-of-home care in 2006, 44.3% were white, 37.5% black, 7.8% Hispanic, 3.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,276 children exiting out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2006, 64% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 885 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a 2% decrease from 906 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 7,641 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,227 or 16.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 27,417 Wisconsin grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,641 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 27.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Wisconsin children in kinship care in 2006, 39.7% were white, 49.9% were black, 7.7% were Hispanic, and 3.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Wisconsin increased from 35,759 in March 2007 to 37,522 in March 2008, an increase of 4.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 17,512, a 2.9% increase from March 2007.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Wisconsin was at 48.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹



- In 2006, Wisconsin spent \$440,260,368 in TANF funds, including 25.2% on basic assistance, and 74.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Wisconsin spent \$50,630,798 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 116,761 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Wisconsin collected and distributed \$611,627,268 in child support funds, a 0.7% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin was \$715 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.75 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 29,500 children served by subsidized child care; 28,700 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 27,600 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$31,765, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Wisconsin had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,538 Wisconsin children, a 0.4% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 431,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin—42.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 17,056 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 17,056 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 3,388 received Targeted Case Management services, and 451 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Wisconsin had 31,368 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.3% increase from 2006, when 30,954 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Wisconsin had 77,000 uninsured children, representing 5.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 4,977 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Wisconsin a rank of 25 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 469 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin, giving it a rank of 29 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 Wisconsin was 15 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 53. This reflects a total rate of 30 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 4,513 adults and adolescents, as well as 33 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 41,000 children ages 12–17, and 421,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wisconsin.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 513 children aged out of out-of-home care in Wisconsin.³⁸
- In 2007, 14,000 Wisconsin 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, 11% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 in Wisconsin needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 65 Wisconsin children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.14 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 26 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Wisconsin, a 160% increase from 10 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 105,319 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin, a 2.0% increase from 103,275 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,818 were for violent crimes and 1,422 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,347 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Wisconsin spent \$330,634,124 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, and 49% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$169,501,024 in federal funds received for child welfare, 78% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8% from Medicaid, 5% from the Social Services Block Grant, 6% from TANF, and 3% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,641 children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2006, only 3,107, or 40.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



WISCONSIN'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

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