



CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

California's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	36,756,666
Population, Children Under 18 ²	9,362,697
State Poverty Rate ³	14.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	20.1%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, California had 339,303 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 232,297 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 88,319 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in California, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.3% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 56,827 were neglected, 6,835 were physically abused, and 5,348 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 184 children in California died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 74,058 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 78,373 children in 2006. In 2007, 23,112 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 15,592 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of California children in out-of-home care in 2007, 21.7% were white, 23.8% black, 47.2% Hispanic, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 42,461 children exiting out-of-home care in California in 2007, 57.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 7,590 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California, a 3.1% increase from 7,364 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 74,058 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 20,832 or 28.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 294,727 California grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 74,058 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 29.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all California children in kinship care in 2007, 17.7% were white, 25.7% were black, 50.4% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California increased from 1,195,251 in March 2008 to 1,312,472 in March 2009, an increase of 9.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 535,296, a 10.3% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in California was at 66.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, California spent \$6,586,128,944 in TANF funds, including 49.9% on basic assistance, 2.5% on child care, 1.8% on transportation, and 44% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, California spent \$738,758,026 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 1,412,210 participants.²¹
- In 2008, California collected and distributed \$2,252,672,234 in child support funds, an increase of 3.2% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,291 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$24.83 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, California had a monthly average of 147,100 children served by subsidized child care; 175,500 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 140,700 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California, a family of three could make no more than \$44,664, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, California had 220,069 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 98,353 California children, a 0.7% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 4,354,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in California—41.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 156,108 children were enrolled in Medicaid in California on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 156,108 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 23,889 received Targeted Case Management services, and 44,611 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, California had 1,062,303 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.7% increase from 2007, when 986,311 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, California had 998,000 uninsured children, representing 10.5% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 38,411 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving California a rank of 6 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 2,835 infants under age 1 died in California, giving it a rank of 3 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in California was 22 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68. This reflects a total rate of 40 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 148,274 adults and adolescents, as well as 675 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in California.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 279,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,711,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in California.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 5,188 children aged out of out-of-home care in California.³⁸
- In 2008, 141,000 California teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 187,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 573,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 136,000 children ages 12–17 in California needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 181,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 209 California children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.9 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 321 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, a 10.3% increase from 291 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 227,754 children younger than 18 were arrested in California, a 2.5% decrease from 233,558 arrests in 2007.

Of the arrests in 2008, 17,172 were for violent crimes and 8,131 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 15,240 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, California spent \$4,399,479,000 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 47% was from federal funds, 31% from state funds, and 22.5% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$2,058,742,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% was from Medicaid, 16% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 14% was from TANF, and 0% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 74,058 children in out-of-home care in California in 2007, only 42,451, or 57.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

CALIFORNIA'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 that child and family.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 California was not available, but the median income for a family of four in California was \$63,761.⁵⁴
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