



COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Colorado's Children At a Glance*

State Population¹.....4,939,456
 Population, Children
 Under 18².....1,206,766
 State Poverty Rate³.....11.0%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 18⁴.....14.4%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Ages 5–17⁵.....14.4%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 5⁶.....18.1%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Colorado had 65,826 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 31,520 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 10,588 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Colorado, a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.5% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 6,890 were neglected, 1,272 were physically abused, and 824 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 28 children in Colorado died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 7,777 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,139 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,117 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,490 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Colorado children in out-of-home care in 2007, 45.4% were white, 12.8% black, 36.6% Hispanic, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,585 children exiting out-of-home care in Colorado in 2007, 50.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,055 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 10.4% increase from 956 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 7,777 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,762 or 22.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 39,989 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,777 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 14.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Colorado children in kinship care in 2007, 42.2% were white, 11.5% were black, 42.3% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado decreased from 22,260 in March 2008 to 22,000 in March 2009, a decrease of 1.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 9,031, a 0.6% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Colorado was at 42.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Colorado spent \$200,300,552 in TANF funds, including 24.1% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 1.7% on transportation, and 74% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Colorado spent \$44,628,898 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 98,802 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Colorado collected and distributed \$284,235,054 in child support funds, an increase of 8.3% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Colorado was \$857 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.48 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Colorado had a monthly average of 16,500 children served by subsidized child care; 16,300 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 19,100 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Colorado, a family of three could make no more than \$39,600, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Colorado had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 9,820 Colorado children, a 0.1% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 323,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado—58.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 20,084 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 20,084 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 0 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Colorado had 60,166 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 15.8% increase from 2007, when 51,939 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Colorado had 150,000 uninsured children, representing 12.3% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 6,317 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Colorado a rank of 36 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 404 infants under age 1 died in Colorado, giving it a rank of 13 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 Colorado was 24 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76. This reflects a total rate of 44 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 9,098 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 39,000 children ages 12–17, and 276,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Colorado.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 405 children aged out of out-of-home care in Colorado.³⁸
- In 2008, 20,000 Colorado teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 20,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 61,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 in Colorado needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 57 Colorado children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.21 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 16 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Colorado, a 33.3% increase from 12 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 43,398 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 1.0% decrease from 43,848 arrests in 2007. Of

the arrests in 2008, 902 were for violent crimes and 556 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,034 children in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Colorado spent \$453,473,443 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, 36% from state funds, and 15.1% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$222,669,745 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, 15% was from Medicaid, 42% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,777 children in out-of-home care in Colorado in 2007, only 2,509, or 32.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

COLORADO'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 Colorado was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Colorado was \$67,634.⁵⁴
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