



C O N N E C T I C U T ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Connecticut's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	3,501,252
Population, Children Under 18 ²	811,287
State Poverty Rate ³	8.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	10.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	9.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	14.9%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- Connecticut was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.⁷
- In 2007, 9,875 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 12 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.9% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 8,188 were neglected, 336 were physically abused, and 301 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 4 children in Connecticut died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 5,784 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,448 children in 2006. In 2007, 1,631 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,283 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Connecticut children in out-of-home care in 2007, 32.0% were white, 29.3% black, 32.0% Hispanic, <.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.7% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,150 children exiting out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2007, 43.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 567 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 12.6% decrease from 649 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 5,784 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,494 or 25.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 19,554 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,784 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 16.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care in 2007, 33.2% were white, 30.4% were black, 29.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.0% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut decreased from 39,204 in March 2008 to 32,603 in March 2009, a decrease of 16.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 16,483, a 13.1% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was at 45.5% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Connecticut spent \$485,092,309 in TANF funds, including 22.0% on basic assistance, 1.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 76.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Connecticut spent \$34,048,151 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 56,328 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Connecticut collected and distributed \$262,954,575 in child support funds, an increase of 7.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$1,123 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$21.60 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Connecticut had a monthly average of 9,700 children served by subsidized child care; 10,100 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 9,600 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$39,405, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Connecticut had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 7,076 Connecticut children, a 1.8% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 281,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut—53.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 6,444 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 6,444 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 89 received Targeted Case Management services, and 2 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Connecticut had 15,432 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.3% decrease from 2007, when 17,200 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Connecticut had 44,000 uninsured children, representing 5.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 3,395 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Connecticut a rank of 21 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 260 infants under age 1 died in Connecticut, giving it a rank of 19 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 Connecticut was 12 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 41. This reflects a total rate of 24 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 15,216 adults and adolescents, as well as 183 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 166,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 499 children aged out of out-of-home care in Connecticut.³⁸
- In 2008, 10,000 Connecticut teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 12,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 35,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 in Connecticut needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 21 Connecticut children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.16 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 14 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, a 180% increase from 5 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 19,458 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 4.0% increase from 18,702 arrests in 2007. Of

the arrests in 2008, 1,186 were for violent crimes and 316 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 498 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Connecticut spent \$685,981,827 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, 42% from state funds, and 0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$400,258,865 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 6% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 34% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 5,784 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2007, only 2,829 or 48.9% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

CONNECTICUT'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 Connecticut was \$51,437; the median income for a family of four in Connecticut was \$82,517.⁵⁴
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