



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The District of Columbia's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	591,833
Population, Children Under 18 ²	111,971
State Poverty Rate ³	16.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	29.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	no data
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	26.0%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, the District of Columbia had 4,888 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,506 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 2,757 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in the District of Columbia, a rate of 24.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 0.1% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 1,258 were neglected, 246 were physically abused, and 81 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 2 children in the District of Columbia died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 2,197 children in the District of Columbia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,368 children in 2006. In 2007, 409 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 897 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of District children in out-of-home care in 2007, 0.7% were white, 93.2% black, 4.6% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 746 children exiting out-of-home care in the District in 2007, 36.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 148 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in the District, a 17.3% decrease from 179 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 2,197 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 560 or 25.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 4,571 District of Columbia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,197 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 14.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all District of Columbia children in kinship care in 2007, 0.9% were white, 96.5% were black, 1.9% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the District of Columbia decreased from 11,965 in March 2008 to 11,351 in March 2009, a decrease of 5.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 5,289, a 1.8% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in the District of Columbia was at 39.9% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, the District spent \$149,380,988 in TANF funds, including 12.5% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 87% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, the District spent \$8,889,738 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 16,421 participants.²¹
- In 2008, the District of Columbia collected and distributed \$53,375,364 in child support funds, an increase of 7.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the District was \$1,288 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$24.77 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, the District had a monthly average of 3,900 children served by subsidized child care; 3,700 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 3,800 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in the District of Columbia, a family of three could make no more than \$40,225, which is equivalent to 67% of the District's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, the District of Columbia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 3,403 District children, a 1.8% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 77,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in the District of Columbia—47.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 4,145 children were enrolled in Medicaid in the District of Columbia on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 4,145 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 20 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, the District of Columbia had 6,720 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 30.6% increase from 2007, when 5,146 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, the District had 7,000 uninsured children, representing 6.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in the District of Columbia was 39 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 56. This reflects a total rate of 48 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³³
- Cumulative through 2007, 18,008 adults and adolescents, as well as 188 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in the District.³⁴
- In 2007, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12–17, and 40,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in the District of Columbia.³⁵

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 157 children aged out of out-of-home care in the District of Columbia.³⁶
- In 2007, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in District of Columbia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁷
- In 2007, approximately 1,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁸
- In 2006, 0 District of Columbia children younger than 20 committed suicide.³⁹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 17 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in the District of Columbia, a 10.5% decrease from 19 in 2005.⁴⁰
- In 2008, 524 children younger than 18 were arrested in the District of Columbia, a 9.4% increase from 479 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 30 were for violent crimes and 11 were for possession of a weapon.⁴¹
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 339 children in juvenile correction facilities in the District.⁴²

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, the District of Columbia spent \$267,136,644 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 38% was from federal funds, 62% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴³
- In 2006, of the \$100,453,651 in federal funds received for child welfare, 24% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 70% was from

Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁴

- Out of 2,197 children in out-of-home care in the District in 2007, only 897, or 40.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁵

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'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.⁴⁶
 - 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.⁴⁷
 - 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.⁴⁸
 - In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in District of Columbia was \$41,440; the median income for a family of four in District of Columbia was \$61,799.⁴⁹
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