



IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Idaho's Children At a Glance*

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| State Population ¹ | 1,523,816 |
| Population, Children Under 18 ² | 413,736 |
| State Poverty Rate ³ | 12.2% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴ | 17.2% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵ | 13.1% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶ | 20.2% |

*All statistics are for 2008.

- Idaho was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.⁷
- In 2007, 1,582 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.2% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 1,094 were neglected, 225 were physically abused, and 67 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 1 child in Idaho died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 1,870 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,850 children in 2006. In 2007, 796 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 201 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Idaho children in out-of-home care in 2007, 71.8% were white, 1.2% black, 16.2% Hispanic, 5.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.1% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,484 children exiting out-of-home care in Idaho in 2007, 71.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 190 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 7.3% increase from 177 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 1,870 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 593 or 31.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 13,587 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,870 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 18.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care in 2007, 70.9% were white, 0.3% were black, 20.9% were Hispanic, 3.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho increased from 2,187 in March 2008 to 2,401 in March 2009, an increase of 9.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 1,611, an 8.1% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Idaho was at 38.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Idaho spent \$37,335,690 in TANF funds, including 15.9% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, <1% on transportation, and 83% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Idaho spent \$19,024,435 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 41,781 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Idaho collected and distributed \$141,131,617 in child support funds, an increase of 9.5% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$669 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.87 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Idaho had a monthly average of 8,700 children served by subsidized child care; 9,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 10,600 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Idaho, a family of three could make no more than \$23,184, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Idaho had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,943 Idaho children, a 1.8% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 133,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho—61.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 3,179 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 3,179 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 238 received Targeted Case Management services, and 522 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Idaho had 26,811 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 38.5% increase from 2007, when 19,352 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Idaho had 37,000 uninsured children, representing 8.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 1,671 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Idaho a rank of 8 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 165 infants under age 1 died in Idaho, giving it a rank of 25 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 Idaho was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 72. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 626 adults and adolescents, as well as 2 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Idaho.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12–17, and 60,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Idaho.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 123 children aged out of out-of-home care in Idaho.³⁸
- In 2008, 6,000 Idaho teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 8,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 23,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 5,000 children ages 12–17 in Idaho needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 8,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 21 Idaho children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.58 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 3 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, a 40% decrease from 5 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 14,863 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 7.3% decrease from 16,035 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 227 were for violent crimes and 168 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 522 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IDAHO'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Idaho spent \$53,290,500 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 67% was from federal funds, 33% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$35,884,848 in federal funds received for child welfare, 36% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% was from Medicaid, 17% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 33% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,870 children in out-of-home care in Idaho in 2007, only 1,016, or 54.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

IDAHO'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 Idaho was \$31,720; the median income for a family of four in Idaho was \$51,098.⁵⁴

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