



KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Kentucky's Children At a Glance*

State Population¹.....4,269,245
 Population, Children
 Under 18².....1,008,539
 State Poverty Rate³.....17.1%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 18⁴.....24.4%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Ages 5–17⁵.....20.8%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 5⁶.....28.3%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Kentucky had 63,612 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 48,600 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 18,778 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kentucky, a rate of 18.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.3% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 15,957 were neglected, 1,530 were physically abused, and 746 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 41 children in Kentucky died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 7,555 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,606 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,225 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,068 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Kentucky children in out-of-home care in 2007, 71.1% were white, 18.1% black, 3.4% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,413 children exiting out-of-home care in Kentucky in 2007, 47.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 686 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kentucky, a 9.6% decrease from 759 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 7,555 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,125 or 28.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 49,490 Kentucky grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,555 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 8.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Kentucky children in kinship care in 2007, 80.2% were white, 9.5% were black, 2.6% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.5% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kentucky increased from 58,681 in March 2008 to 59,258 in March 2009, an increase of 1.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 29,383, a 0.8% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kentucky was at 33.8% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Kentucky spent \$199,294,860 in TANF funds, including 61.1% on basic assistance, 5.5% on child care, 2.1% on transportation, and 31% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Kentucky spent \$73,514,099 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 136,266 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Kentucky collected and distributed \$404,394,289 in child support funds, an increase of 8.8% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kentucky was \$624 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.01 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Kentucky had a monthly average of 29,400 children served by subsidized child care; 28,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 25,200 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky, a family of three could make no more than \$26,400, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Kentucky had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 16,070 Kentucky children, a 2.1% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 396,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky—47.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 13,286 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 13,286 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 862 received Targeted Case Management services, and 0 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Kentucky had 53,555 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.9% increase from 2007, when 52,536 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Kentucky had 102,000 uninsured children, representing 10.0% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 5,327 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Kentucky a rank of 39 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 438 infants under age 1 died in Kentucky, giving it a rank of 36 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 Kentucky was 26 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 102. This reflects a total rate of 55 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 4,869 adults and adolescents, as well as 35 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 176,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kentucky.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 624 children aged out of out-of-home care in Kentucky.³⁸
- In 2008, 16,000 Kentucky teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 24,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 72,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 15,000 children ages 12–17 in Kentucky needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 36 Kentucky children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.11 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 8 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kentucky, a 33.3% decrease from 12 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 3,671 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky, a 48.9% decrease from 7,178 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 279 were for violent crimes and 58 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,242 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Kentucky spent \$413,813,486 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 41% was from federal funds, 59% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$168,132,143 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 12% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 32% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,555 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky in 2007, only 3,634, or 48.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

KENTUCKY'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 Kentucky was \$30,232; the median income for a family of four in Kentucky was \$54,319.⁵⁴

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