



MAINE'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Maine's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	1,316,456
Population, Children Under 18 ²	274,761
State Poverty Rate ³	12.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	15.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.9%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Maine had 16,678 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,710 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 4,118 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maine, a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 16.1% increase from 2006. Of these children, 1,814 were neglected, 210 were physically abused, and 184 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 1 child in Maine died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 1,970 children in Maine lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,076 children in 2006. In 2007, 671 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 412 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Maine children in out-of-home care in 2007, 84.9% were white, 2.3% black, 3.3% Hispanic, 1.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.4% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 929 children exiting out-of-home care in Maine in 2007, 33.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 327 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maine, a 1.2% decrease from 331 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 1,970 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 615 or 31.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 8,033 Maine grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,970 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 18.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Maine children in kinship care in 2007, 88.6% were white, 1.1% were black, 2.5% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maine increased from 23,968 in March 2008 to 25,608 in March 2009, an increase of 6.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 10,879, a 21.7% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maine was at 41.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Maine spent \$109,792,300 in TANF funds, including 56.2% on basic assistance, 6.4% on child care, 8.8% on transportation, and 29% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Maine spent \$12,574,349 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 25,784 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Maine collected and distributed \$108,443,420 in child support funds, an increase of 7.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maine was \$784 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.07 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Maine had a monthly average of 5,800 children served by subsidized child care; 5,400 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 5,300 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maine, a family of three could make no more than \$40,006, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Maine had 867 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 3,871 Maine children, a 2.2% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 121,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maine—40.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- The number of children enrolled in Medicaid in Maine on the basis of being in foster care during 2007 was not available.²⁹
- The number of children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care and receiving either Targeted Case Management services or Rehabilitative Services in 2007 was not available.³⁰
- In 2008, Maine had 13,839 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.7% increase from 2007, when 13,346 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Maine had 16,000 uninsured children, representing 5.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 967 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maine a rank of 6 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 89 infants under age 1 died in Maine, giving it a rank of 21 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 Maine was 10 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 52. This reflects a total rate of 26 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 1,156 adults and adolescents, as well as 7 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maine.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12–17, and 69,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maine.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 202 children aged out of out-of-home care in Maine.³⁸
- In 2008, 4,000 Maine teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 5,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 17,000 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 Maine needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 4 Maine children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.2 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 3 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maine, an increase from 0 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 6,990 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maine, a 2.3% decrease from 7,158 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 86 were for violent crimes and 46 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 210 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maine.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MAINE'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Maine spent \$121,736,511 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 30% was from federal funds, 70% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$36,968,128 in federal funds received for child welfare, 66% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8% was from Medicaid, 10% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 8% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,970 children in out-of-home care in Maine in 2007, only 692, or 35.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

MAINE'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 Maine was \$28,831; the median income for a family of four in Maine was \$58,425.⁵⁴

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