



# MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2010

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### Maryland's Children At a Glance\*

State Population<sup>1</sup>.....5,633,597  
 Population, Children  
 Under 18<sup>2</sup>.....1,341,026  
 State Poverty Rate<sup>3</sup>.....8.7%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Under 18<sup>4</sup>.....10.0%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Ages 5–17<sup>5</sup>.....9.3%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Under 5<sup>6</sup>.....11.9%

*\*All statistics are for 2008.*

- Maryland was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.<sup>7</sup>
- Maryland did not provide information about the number of children substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected for 2007.<sup>8</sup>
- Maryland did not provide information about the number of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect in 2007.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 9,949 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,505 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,350 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 3,221 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Maryland children in out-of-home care in 2007, 22.4% were white, 73.0% black, 2.2% Hispanic, 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,793 children exiting out-of-home care in Maryland in 2007, 38.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 352 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maryland, a 3.3% decrease from 364 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 9,949 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,760 or 17.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 47,397 Maryland grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 9,949 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 30.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Maryland children in kinship care in 2007, 13.9% were white, 82.8% were black, 1.2% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.8% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maryland increased from 42,550 in March 2008 to 51,349 in March 2009, an increase of 20.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 21,757, a 16.8% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maryland was at 41.2% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Maryland spent \$384,490,826 in TANF funds, including 24.4% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 76% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Maryland spent \$66,819,066 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 135,610 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Maryland collected and distributed \$499,353,374 in child support funds, an increase of 5.2% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland was \$1,106 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$21.27 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Maryland had a monthly average of 23,900 children served by subsidized child care; 22,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 20,500 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland, a family of three could make no more than \$29,990, which is equivalent to 38% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Maryland had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 10,347 Maryland children, a 1.3% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 383,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland—49.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 18,011 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 18,011 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 16 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,004 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Maryland had 110,877 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.7% increase from 2007, when 104,870 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Maryland had 81,000 uninsured children, representing 6.0% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 7,269 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maryland a rank of 43 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 616 infants under age 1 died in Maryland, giving it a rank of 39 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Maryland was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 59. This reflects a total rate of 34 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 31,611 adults and adolescents, as well as 320 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17, and 264,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maryland.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 461 children aged out of out-of-home care in Maryland.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 20,000 Maryland teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 28,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 67,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 in Maryland needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 24,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 29 Maryland children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.81 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 39 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maryland, a 5.4% increase from 37 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 47,175 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland, a 1.0% decrease from 47,646 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 3,657 were for violent crimes and 1,357 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,104 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland.<sup>47</sup>

### **FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MARYLAND'S CHILDREN**

- In 2006, Maryland spent \$498,274,967 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 0.6% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$202,761,076 in federal funds received for child welfare, 61% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 13% was from Medicaid, 10% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 12% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 9,949 children in out-of-home care in Maryland in 2007, only 42, or 0.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **MARYLAND'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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Maryland was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Maryland was \$82,879.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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