



# MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN 2010

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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

State Population<sup>1</sup>.....5,220,393  
Population, Children

Under 18<sup>2</sup>.....1,249,827

State Poverty Rate<sup>3</sup>.....9.9%

Poverty Rate,

Children Under 18<sup>4</sup>.....15.6%

Poverty Rate,

Children Ages 5–17<sup>5</sup>.....14.0%

Poverty Rate,

Children Under 5<sup>6</sup>.....13.4%

*\*All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Minnesota had 56,581 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,993 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 6,847 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Minnesota, a rate of 5.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 10.2% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 4,721 were neglected, 861 were physically abused, and 772 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 17 children in Minnesota died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 6,756 children in Minnesota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,156 children in 2006. In 2007, 1,973 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,712 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Minnesota children in out-of-home care in 2007, 45.4% were white, 21.6% black, 8.2% Hispanic, 12.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.2% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 7,480 children exiting out-of-home care in Minnesota in 2007, 66.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 602 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Minnesota, a 9.3% decrease from 664 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 6,756 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,526 or 22.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 21,525 Minnesota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 6,756 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 18.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Minnesota children in kinship care in 2007, 38.4% were white, 24.8% were black, 9.5% were Hispanic, 15.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.2% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Minnesota increased from 47,742 in March 2008 to 47,054 in March 2009, an increase of 1.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 21,785, a 1.0% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Minnesota was at 42.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Minnesota spent \$394,019,866 in TANF funds, including 27% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 73% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Minnesota spent \$70,849,413 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 141,440 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Minnesota collected and distributed \$614,573,014 in child support funds, an increase of 3.1% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota was \$786 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.12 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Minnesota had a monthly average of 25,600 children served by subsidized child care; 27,300 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 25,500 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Minnesota, a family of three could make no more than \$32,167, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Minnesota had 7,787 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 10,332 Minnesota children, a 1.7% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 393,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota—50.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 10,314 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 10,314 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 4,505 received Targeted Case Management services, and 87 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Minnesota had 2,368 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.7% decrease from 2007, when 2,458 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Minnesota had 81,000 uninsured children, representing 6.6% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 4,807 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Minnesota a rank of 3 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 381 infants under age 1 died in Minnesota, giving it a rank of 6 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 Minnesota was 14 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 50. This reflects a total rate of 28 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 5,016 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12–17, and 268,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Minnesota.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 725 children aged out of out-of-home care in Minnesota.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 8,000 Minnesota teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 12,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 48,000 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 17,000 children ages 12–17 in Minnesota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 49 Minnesota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.32 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 13 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Minnesota, a 18.2% increase from 11 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 45,954 children younger than 18 were arrested in Minnesota, a 0.2% decrease from 49,839 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,135 were for violent crimes and 787 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,623 children in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota.<sup>47</sup>

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

- In 2006, Minnesota spent \$531,983,539 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 33% was from federal funds, 17% from state funds, and 50.3% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$176,223,335 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 32% was from Medicaid, 11% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 9% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 6,756 children in out-of-home care in Minnesota in 2007, only 2,258, or 33.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **MINNESOTA'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 Minnesota was \$29,268; the median income for a family of four in Minnesota was \$72,635.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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