



MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Missouri's Children At a Glance*

State Population¹.....5,911,605
 Population, Children
 Under 18².....1,421,533
 State Poverty Rate³.....13.3%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 18⁴.....18.7%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Ages 5–17⁵.....17.0%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 5⁶.....23.0%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Missouri had 102,579 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 54,635 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 7,235 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Missouri, a rate of 5.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.8% increase from 2006. Of these children, 2,866 were neglected, 1,462 were physically abused, and 1,640 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 50 children in Missouri died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 9,846 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,181 children in 2006. In 2007, 3,116 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,306 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Missouri children in out-of-home care in 2007, 64.6% were white, 30.3% black, 2.9% Hispanic, 0.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.6% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,168 children exiting out-of-home care in Missouri in 2007, 56.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 823 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Missouri, a 34.3% decrease from 1,253 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 9,846 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,558 or 26.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 50,811 Missouri grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,846 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 21.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Missouri children in kinship care in 2007, 67.3% were white, 28.1% were black, 3.0% were Hispanic, 0.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Missouri decreased from 86,405 in March 2008 to 83,408 in March 2009, a decrease of 3.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 34,779, a 3.0% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Missouri was at 34.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Missouri spent \$341,431,870 in TANF funds, including 33.8% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 66.2% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Missouri spent \$60,880,339 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 143,007 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Missouri collected and distributed \$556,881,715 in child support funds, an increase of 8.7% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Missouri was \$670 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.89 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Missouri had a monthly average of 31,400 children served by subsidized child care; 33,600 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 36,300 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri, a family of three could make no more than \$22,620, which is equivalent to 43% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Missouri had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 17,456 Missouri children, a 1.5% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 565,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri—52.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 28,798 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 28,798 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 4,064 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,207 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Missouri had 58,923 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.9% decrease from 2007, when 61,936 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Missouri had 96,000 uninsured children, representing 6.8% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 6,555 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Missouri a rank of 21 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 603 infants under age 1 died in Missouri, giving it a rank of 33 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 Missouri was 23 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 83. This reflects a total rate of 46 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 11,585 adults and adolescents, as well as 61 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Missouri.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12–17, and 277,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Missouri.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 292 children aged out of out-of-home care in Missouri.³⁸
- In 2008, 22,000 Missouri teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 27,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 81,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 in Missouri needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 52 Missouri children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.14 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 47 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Missouri, a 34.3% increase from 35 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 45,321 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri, a 13.0% increase from 40,093 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,642 were for violent crimes and 728 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,293 children in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Missouri spent \$411,368,975 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 54% was from federal funds, 46% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$222,606,617 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 17% was from Medicaid, 12% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 18% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 9,846 children in out-of-home care in Missouri in 2007, only 3,925, or 39.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

MISSOURI'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 Missouri was \$24,732; the median income for a family of four in Missouri was \$61,036.⁵⁴

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