



MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Montana's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	967,440
Population, Children Under 18 ²	222,202
State Poverty Rate ³	12.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	19.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	16.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	24.7%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Montana had 12,852 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,699 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 1,886 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Montana, a rate of 8.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 6.3% increase from 2006. Of these children, 1,097 were neglected, 118 were physically abused, and 106 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 1 child in Montana died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 1,737 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,962 children in 2006. In 2007, 689 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 234 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Montana children in out-of-home care in 2007, 52.4% were white, 0.7% black, 5.6% Hispanic, 33.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,223 children exiting out-of-home care in Montana in 2007, 50.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 248 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, a 8.8% decrease from 272 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 1,737 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 597 or 34.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 7,109 Montana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,737 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 28.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Montana children in kinship care in 2007, 48.5% were white, 0.8% were black, 4.8% were Hispanic, 38.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Montana increased from 8,008 in March 2008 to 8,447 in March 2009, an increase of 5.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 3,371, a 5.1% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Montana was at 47.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Montana spent \$40,488,029 in TANF funds, including 35.9% on basic assistance, 3.2% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 55% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Montana spent \$9,460,491 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 19,914 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Montana collected and distributed \$56,954,973 in child support funds, an increase of 10.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Montana was \$641 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.33 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Montana had a monthly average of 4,800 children served by subsidized child care; 4,800 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 5,200 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, 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, Montana had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,919 Montana children, a 1.8% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 61,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana—54.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 4,163 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 4,163 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 403 received Targeted Case Management services, and 101 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Montana had 16,576 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 24.7% increase from 2007, when 13,289 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Montana had 23,000 uninsured children, representing 10.5% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 912 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Montana a rank of 18 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 73 infants under age 1 died in Montana, giving it a rank of 14 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 Montana was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76. This reflects a total rate of 40 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 401 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17, and 49,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Montana.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 92 children aged out of out-of-home care in Montana.³⁸
- In 2008, 5,000 Montana teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 6,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 14,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 in Montana 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, 13 Montana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.04 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 0 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Montana, a 100% decrease from 2 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 7,251 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana, a 4.3% increase from 6,950 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 109 were for violent crimes and 20 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 243 children in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Montana spent \$61,681,929 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 50% was from federal funds, 50% from state funds, and 0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$31,096,157 in federal funds received for child welfare, 38% 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, 6% was from Medicaid, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 8% was from TANF, and 36% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,737 children in out-of-home care in Montana in 2007, only 681, or 39.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

MONTANA'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 Montana was \$31,085; the median income for a family of four in Montana was \$48,078.⁵⁴

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