



N O R T H C A R O L I N A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

North Carolina's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	9,222,414
Population, Children Under 18 ²	2,240,131
State Poverty Rate ³	13.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	19.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	15.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	22.7%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- North Carolina was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.⁷
- In 2007, 25,976 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Carolina, a rate of 11.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 8.6% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 20,389 were neglected, 2,536 were physically abused, and 1,950 were sexually abused.⁸
- North Carolina did not provide information about the number of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect in 2007.⁹
- In 2007, 10,827 children in North Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,115 children in 2006. In 2007, 4,044 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,756 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of North Carolina children in out-of-home care in 2007, 45.6% were white, 39.9% black, 7.9% Hispanic, 1.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.1% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,785 children exiting out-of-home care in North Carolina in 2007, 47.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,401 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Carolina, a 13.5% increase from 1,234 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 10,827 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 3,095 or 28.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 98,312 North Carolina grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 10,827 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 23.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all North Carolina children in kinship care in 2007, 44.4% were white, 41.6% were black, 7.2% were Hispanic, 2.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.8% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Carolina increased from 44,066 in March 2008 to 48,416 in March 2009, an increase of 9.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 25,115, a 6.1% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Carolina was at 32.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, North Carolina spent \$435,245,521 in TANF funds, including 19.2% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 80% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, North Carolina spent \$136,418,654 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 260,433 participants.²¹
- In 2008, North Carolina collected and distributed \$663,167,601 in child support funds, an increase of 6.2% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Carolina was \$693 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.33 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, North Carolina had a monthly average of 64,200 children served by subsidized child care; 79,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 104,300 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Carolina, a family of three could make no more than \$36,684, which is equivalent to 71% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, North Carolina had 23,288 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 18,963 North Carolina children, a 0.1% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 857,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina—52.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 21,136 children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 21,136 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 2,059 received Targeted Case Management services, and 0 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, North Carolina had 164,755 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.7% increase from 2007, when 152,954 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, North Carolina had 216,000 uninsured children, representing 9.3% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 11,585 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Carolina a rank of 39 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 1,033 infants under age 1 died in North Carolina, giving it a rank of 42 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 North Carolina was 26 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 87. This reflects a total rate of 50 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 17,007 adults and adolescents, as well as 120 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 49,000 children ages 12–17, and 362,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Carolina.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 499 children aged out of out-of-home care in North Carolina.³⁸
- In 2008, 41,000 North Carolina teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 44,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 136,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 in North Carolina needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 30,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 72 North Carolina children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.86 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 42 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in North Carolina, a 8.7% decrease from 46 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 40,840 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Carolina, a 10.1% decrease from 45,412 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 2,119 were for violent crimes and 1,370 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,029 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, North Carolina spent \$421,092,078 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 51% was from federal funds, 19% from state funds, and 30.4% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$212,999,533 in federal funds received for child welfare, 42% 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, 0% was from Medicaid, 4% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 47% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 10,827 children in out-of-home care in North Carolina in 2007, only 4,210, or 38.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

NORTH CAROLINA'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 North Carolina was not available, but the median income for a family of four in North Carolina was \$56,500.⁵⁴
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