



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

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### North Dakota's Children At a Glance\*

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|--|---------|
| State Population <sup>1</sup> .....                    | 641,481 |
| Population, Children<br>Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....    | 141,366 |
| State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....                  | 11.8%   |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....  | 17.2%   |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> ..... | 13.8%   |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....   | 19.6%   |

*\*All statistics are for 2008.*

- North Dakota was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 1,288 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Dakota, a rate of 9 per 1,000 children, representing a 10.4% decrease from 2006. Of these children, n/a were neglected, n/a were physically abused, and n/a were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 1 child in North Dakota died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 1,263 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,331 children in 2006. In 2007, 350 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 316 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of North Dakota children in out-of-home care in 2007, 56.7% were white, 2.4% black, 6.4% Hispanic, 25.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.3% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 891 children exiting out-of-home care in North Dakota in 2007, 47.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 128 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Dakota, a 14.7% decrease from 150 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,263 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 337 or 26.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 2,762 North Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 1,263 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 16.7% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all North Dakota children in kinship care in 2007, 58.3% were white, 0.9% were black, 5.2% were Hispanic, 23.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.8% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota increased from 5,040 in March 2008 to 5,446 in March 2009, an increase of 8.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 2,117, a 5.5% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Dakota was at 45.5% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, North Dakota spent \$35,732,914 in TANF funds, including 23.0% on basic assistance, 3.2% on child care, 1.0% on transportation, and 48% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, North Dakota spent \$8,361,673 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 14,925 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, North Dakota collected and distributed \$77,782,032 in child support funds, an increase of 9.6% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota was \$566 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$10.88 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, North Dakota had a monthly average of 3,800 children served by subsidized child care; 4,000 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 3,700 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$29,556, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,353 North Dakota children, a 2.9% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 36,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota—50.2% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 1,900 children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 1,900 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 398 received Targeted Case Management services, and 771 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, North Dakota had 5,785 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 27.1% increase from 2007, when 4,553 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, North Dakota had 12,000 uninsured children, representing 8.2% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 576 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Dakota a rank of 5 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 50 infants under age 1 died in North Dakota, giving it a rank of 14 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 North Dakota was 13 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 43. This reflects a total rate of 27 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 151 adults and adolescents, as well as 2 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 31,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Dakota.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 66 children aged out of out-of-home care in North Dakota.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 3,000 North Dakota teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 3,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 7,000 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 2,000 children ages 12–17 in North Dakota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 15 North Dakota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 8.35 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 0 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in North Dakota, a 100% decrease from 1 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 6,719 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota, a 1.0% increase from 6,651 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 68 were for violent crimes and 41 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 240 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota.<sup>47</sup>

### **FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN**

- In 2006, North Dakota spent \$53,820,087 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, 22% from state funds, and 14.5% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$34,415,465 in federal funds received for child welfare, 39% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 18% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 35% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 1,263 children in out-of-home care in North Dakota in 2007, only 442, or 35.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **NORTH DAKOTA'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 North Dakota was not available, but the median income for a family of four in North Dakota was \$55,138.<sup>54</sup>
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