



# O H I O ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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

State Population<sup>1</sup>.....11,485,910  
 Population, Children  
 Under 18<sup>2</sup>.....2,731,804  
 State Poverty Rate<sup>3</sup>.....13.7%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Under 18<sup>4</sup>.....21.0%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Ages 5–17<sup>5</sup>.....19.4%  
 Poverty Rate,  
 Children Under 5<sup>6</sup>.....23.3%

*\*All statistics are for 2008.*

- Ohio was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 38,484 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Ohio, a rate of 14 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.2% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 19,428 were neglected, 9,233 were physically abused, and 6,352 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 90 children in Ohio died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 17,016 children in Ohio lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 16,631 children in 2006. In 2007, 5,680 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 4,111 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Ohio children in out-of-home care in 2007, 52.8% were white, 39.5% black, 3.0% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.5% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 11,011 children exiting out-of-home care in Ohio in 2007, 44.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 1,602 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Ohio, a 11.1% decrease from 1,803 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 17,016 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 3,782 or 22.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 95,909 Ohio grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 17,016 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 14.9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Ohio children in kinship care in 2007, 55.6% were white, 38.0% were black, 2.6% were Hispanic, <.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.8% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Ohio increased from 173,264 in March 2008 to 197,299 in March 2009, an increase of 13.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 88,543, a 10.3% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Ohio was at 39.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Ohio spent \$1,339,116,871 in TANF funds, including 23.4% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 1.9% on transportation, and 75% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Ohio spent \$139,031,682 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 292,937 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Ohio collected and distributed \$1,778,146,946 in child support funds, an increase of 4.3% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio was \$683 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.14 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Ohio had a monthly average of 54,600 children served by subsidized child care; 39,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 46,600 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Ohio, a family of three could make no more than \$35,208, which is equivalent to 61% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Ohio had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 37,940 Ohio children, a 0.3% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 1,049,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio—50.9% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 46,536 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 46,536 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 10,198 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Ohio had 145,049 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.2% increase from 2007, when 140,547 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Ohio had 161,000 uninsured children, representing 5.8% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 13,180 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Ohio a rank of 35 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 1,170 infants under age 1 died in Ohio, giving it a rank of 38 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 Ohio was 20 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 72. This reflects a total rate of 40 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 15,698 adults and adolescents, as well as 140 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Ohio.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 85,000 children ages 12–17, and 588,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Ohio.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 1,166 children aged out of out-of-home care in Ohio.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 32,000 Ohio teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 43,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 149,000 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 43,000 children ages 12–17 in Ohio needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 53,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 108 Ohio children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.34 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 54 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Ohio, a 1.9% increase from 53 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 38,975 children younger than 18 were arrested in Ohio, a 4.9% decrease from 40,970 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,196 were for violent crimes and 592 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,149 children in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio.<sup>47</sup>

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

- In 2006, Ohio spent \$1,106,670,844 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 60% was from federal funds, 13% from state funds, and 27.2% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$664,106,329 in federal funds received for child welfare, 68% 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, 0% was from Medicaid, 26% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from TANF, and 0% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 17,016 children in out-of-home care in Ohio in 2007, only 10,248, or 60.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## **OHIO'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 Ohio was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Ohio was \$64,282.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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