



# OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN 2010

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	3,642,361
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	906,137
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	13.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	21.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	19.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	26.0%

\*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Oklahoma had 62,965 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,873 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 13,179 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oklahoma, a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.8% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 7,664 were neglected, 735 were physically abused, and 334 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 31 children in Oklahoma died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 11,783 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,816 children in 2006. In 2007, 5,609 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,082 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Oklahoma children in out-of-home care in 2007, 38.2% were white, 16.3% black, 14.7% Hispanic, 8.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 21.9% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 6,617 children exiting out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2007, 60.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 1,263 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oklahoma, a 10.7% increase from 1,141 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 11,783 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 4,628 or 39.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 46,863 Oklahoma grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 11,783 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 29.0% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Oklahoma children in kinship care in 2007, 37.8% were white, 21.2% were black, 14.4% were Hispanic, 5.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 20.9% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oklahoma increased from 17,866 in March 2008 to 18,024 in March 2009, an increase of 0.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 8,332, a 0.3% decrease from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oklahoma was at 31.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Oklahoma spent \$153,071,794 in TANF funds, including 17.2% on basic assistance, 26.9% on child care, 17.0% on transportation, and 33% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Oklahoma spent \$60,615,316 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 122,840 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Oklahoma collected and distributed \$262,752,574 in child support funds, an increase of 17.5% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oklahoma was \$646 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.41 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Oklahoma had a monthly average of 22,600 children served by subsidized child care; 25,000 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 19,700 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100, which is equivalent to 76% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Oklahoma had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,474 Oklahoma children, a 1.9% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 419,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma—59.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 13,705 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 13,705 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 9,634 received Targeted Case Management services, and 0 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Oklahoma had 62,955 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.4% decrease from 2007, when 66,570 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Oklahoma had 65,000 uninsured children, representing 7.2% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 4,503 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oklahoma a rank of 25 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 432 infants under age 1 died in Oklahoma, giving it a rank of 40 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 Oklahoma was 30 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 107. This reflects a total rate of 60 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 5,079 adults and adolescents, as well as 26 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 22,000 children ages 12–17, and 144,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oklahoma.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 523 children aged out of out-of-home care in Oklahoma.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 18,000 Oklahoma teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 18,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 64,000 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 12,000 children ages 12–17 in Oklahoma needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 40 Oklahoma children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.84 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 26 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oklahoma, a 52.9% increase from 17 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 21,697 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma, a 1.6% increase from 21,357 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 790 were for violent crimes and 323 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 924 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma.<sup>47</sup>

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

- In 2006, Oklahoma spent \$248,445,899 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 55% was from federal funds, 45% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$137,586,885 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10% was from Medicaid, 17% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% was from TANF, and 4% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 11,783 children in out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2007, only 6,189, or 52.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **OKLAHOMA'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 Oklahoma was \$24,000; the median income for a family of four in Oklahoma was \$53,949.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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