



OREGON'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Oregon's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	3,790,060
Population, Children Under 18 ²	867,477
State Poverty Rate ³	10.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	14.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	21.3%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Oregon had 63,504 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,381 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 11,552 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 13.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 10.6% decrease from 2006. Oregon did not provide data about the types of abuse these children experienced.⁸
- In 2007, 12 children in Oregon died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 9,562 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,661 children in 2006. In 2007, 3,797 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,400 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Oregon children in out-of-home care in 2007, 58.5% were white, 2.3% black, 9.9% Hispanic, 3.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 25.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,427 children exiting out-of-home care in Oregon in 2007, 63.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,020 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 6.8% decrease from 1,095 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 9,562 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,527 or 26.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 23,424 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,562 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 19.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care in 2007, 56.4% were white, 2.5% were black, 10.9% were Hispanic, 4.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 25.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon increased from 44,406 in March 2008 to 50,953 in March 2009, an increase of 14.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 21,749, a 18.5% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oregon was at 51.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Oregon spent \$257,448,535 in TANF funds, including 32.6% on basic assistance, 5.9% on child care, 2.0% on transportation, and 33% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Oregon spent \$50,139,963 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 108,000 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Oregon collected and distributed \$343,622,507 in child support funds, an increase of 3.5% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$756 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$14.54 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Oregon had a monthly average of 19,600 children served by subsidized child care; 20,200 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 21,300 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than \$33,874, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Oregon had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 8,814 Oregon children, a 3.5% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 275,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon—52.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 18,006 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 18,006 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 8,303 received Targeted Case Management services, and 5,926 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Oregon had 50,736 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 28.2% increase from 2007, when 39,586 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Oregon had 102,000 uninsured children, representing 11.6% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 2,963 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oregon a rank of 2 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 267 infants under age 1 died in Oregon, giving it a rank of 7 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 Oregon was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 66. This reflects a total rate of 36 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 6,229 adults and adolescents, as well as 19 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oregon.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 23,000 children ages 12–17, and 160,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oregon.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 310 children aged out of out-of-home care in Oregon.³⁸
- In 2008, 13,000 Oregon teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 19,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 50,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 12,000 children ages 12–17 in Oregon needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 15,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 32 Oregon children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.22 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 10 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, a 400% increase from 2 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 28,909 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 4.4% decrease from 30,236 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 720 were for violent crimes and 328 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,254 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Oregon spent \$408,066,923 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 62% was from federal funds, 36% from state funds, and 1.7% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$253,878,627 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31% 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, 30% was from Medicaid, 7% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 26% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 9,562 children in out-of-home care in Oregon in 2007, only 4,993, or 52.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

OREGON'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 Oregon was \$33,480; the median income for a family of four in Oregon was \$58,737.⁵⁴

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