



# P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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

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|--|------------|
| State Population <sup>1</sup> .....                    | 12,448,279 |
| Population, Children<br>Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....    | 2,764,026  |
| State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....                  | 11.0%      |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....  | 15.4%      |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> ..... | 13.5%      |
| Poverty Rate,<br>Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....   | 19.6%      |

\*All statistics are for 2008.

- Pennsylvania was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 4,177 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 0.0% no change from 2006. Of these children, 93 were neglected, 1,382 were physically abused, and 2,503 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 47 children in Pennsylvania died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 20,858 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,135 children in 2006. In 2007, 6,216 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 5,502 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Pennsylvania children in out-of-home care in 2007, 39.7% were white, 46.0% black, 8.7% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.4% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 13,170 children exiting out-of-home care in Pennsylvania in 2007, 55.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 1,926 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania, no change from 1,926 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 20,858 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 3,379 or 16.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 79,938 Pennsylvania grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 20,858 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 22.6% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Pennsylvania children in kinship care in 2007, 34.0% were white, 53.0% were black, 5.8% were Hispanic, <.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Pennsylvania decreased from 128,842 in March 2008 to 105,584 in March 2009, a decrease of 18.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 46,287, a 14.1% decrease from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Pennsylvania was at 39.2% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Pennsylvania spent \$897,731,804 in TANF funds, including 27.5% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 2.6% on transportation, and 70% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Pennsylvania spent \$121,732,749 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 251,159 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Pennsylvania collected and distributed \$1,480,151,351 in child support funds, an increase of 1.9% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$799 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.37 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Pennsylvania had a monthly average of 94,900 children served by subsidized child care; 82,800 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 72,600 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania, a family of three could make no more than \$35,200, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Pennsylvania had 15,446 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 35,362 Pennsylvania children, a 13.7% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 978,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania—46.9% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 56,639 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 56,639 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 3,367 received Targeted Case Management services, and 3,577 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Pennsylvania had 172,662 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.1% increase from 2007, when 161,166 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Pennsylvania had 185,000 uninsured children, representing 6.7% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 12,562 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Pennsylvania a rank of 31 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 1,138 infants under age 1 died in Pennsylvania, giving it a rank of 37 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 Pennsylvania was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 52. This reflects a total rate of 31 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 35,120 adults and adolescents, as well as 369 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 72,000 children ages 12–17, and 462,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Pennsylvania.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 1,064 children aged out of out-of-home care in Pennsylvania.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 37,000 Pennsylvania teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 47,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 160,000 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 38,000 children ages 12–17 in Pennsylvania needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 46,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 81 Pennsylvania children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.42 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 80 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, a 19.4% increase from 67 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 102,605 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, a 0.1% increase from 102,497 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 5,309 were for violent crimes and 1,481 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,323 children in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania.<sup>47</sup>

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

- In 2006, Pennsylvania spent \$1,624,380,399 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 24% was from federal funds, 56% from state funds, and 20.2% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$389,052,449 in federal funds received for child welfare, 81% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 3% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 10% was from TANF, and 4% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 20,858 children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania in 2007, only 12,777, or 61.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **PENNSYLVANIA'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 Pennsylvania was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Pennsylvania was \$66,130.<sup>54</sup>
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