



WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Washington's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	6,549,224
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,543,060
State Poverty Rate ³	10.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	17.1%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Washington had 74,381 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,262 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 6,984 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Washington, a rate of 4.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.3% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 5,329 were neglected, 979 were physically abused, and 314 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 27 children in Washington died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 11,107 children in Washington lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,457 children in 2006. In 2007, 5,045 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,254 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Washington children in out-of-home care in 2007, 53.3% were white, 9.9% black, 15.7% Hispanic, 8.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,250 children exiting out-of-home care in Washington in 2007, 59.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,199 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Washington, a 0.3% increase from 1,196 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 11,107 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,837 or 25.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 40,814 Washington grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 11,107 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 35.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Washington children in kinship care in 2007, 49.7% were white, 11.1% were black, 16.3% were Hispanic, 9.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 13.7% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Washington increased from 113,364 in March 2008 to 143,337 in March 2009, an increase of 26.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 59,589, a 22.3% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Washington was at 47.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Washington spent \$614,862,158 in TANF funds, including 43.2% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 57% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Washington spent \$95,504,212 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 176,005 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Washington collected and distributed \$674,403,645 in child support funds, an increase of 4.7% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Washington was \$874 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.81 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Washington had a monthly average of 56,700 children served by subsidized child care; 53,200 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 53,900 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Washington, a family of three could make no more than \$35,208, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Washington had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 11,278 Washington children, a 1.5% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 643,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Washington—53.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 21,099 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Washington on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 21,099 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 1,725 received Targeted Case Management services, and 718 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Washington had 20,953 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.4% increase from 2007, when 18,975 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Washington had 107,000 uninsured children, representing 6.9% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 5,641 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Washington a rank of 3 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 407 infants under age 1 died in Washington, giving it a rank of 1 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 Washington was 15 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 64. This reflects a total rate of 33 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 12,202 adults and adolescents, as well as 35 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Washington.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 45,000 children ages 12–17, and 304,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Washington.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 403 children aged out of out-of-home care in Washington.³⁸
- In 2008, 25,000 Washington teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 29,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 87,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 23,000 children ages 12–17 in Washington needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 28,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 62 Washington children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.5 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 10 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Washington, a 37.5% decrease from 16 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 30,669 children younger than 18 were arrested in Washington, a 12.6% decrease from 35,096 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,247 were for violent crimes and 634 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,455 children in juvenile correction facilities in Washington.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Washington spent \$481,137,381 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 49% was from federal funds, 51% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$234,040,620 in federal funds received for child welfare, 50% 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, 13% was from Medicaid, 15% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 8% was from TANF, and 10% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 11,107 children in out-of-home care in Washington in 2007, only 4,034, or 36.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

WASHINGTON'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 Washington was \$34,932; the median income for a family of four in Washington was \$65,997.⁵⁴
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