



WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

West Virginia's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	1,814,468
Population, Children Under 18 ²	385,373
State Poverty Rate ³	14.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	21.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	21.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	30.8%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, West Virginia had 31,813 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 21,962 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 7,109 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in West Virginia, a rate of 18.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 14.8% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 3,005 were neglected, 1,166 were physically abused, and 224 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 12 children in West Virginia died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 4,410 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,226 children in 2006. In 2007, 1,380 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,075 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of West Virginia children in out-of-home care in 2007, 85.9% were white, 5.6% black, 1.7% Hispanic, <.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.8% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,549 children exiting out-of-home care in West Virginia in 2007, 60.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 407 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in West Virginia, a 2.9% decrease from 419 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 4,410 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,272 or 28.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 19,841 West Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 4,410 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 11.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all West Virginia children in kinship care in 2007, 85.8% were white, 5.8% were black, 1.0% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 10.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in West Virginia increased from 18,702 in March 2008 to 19,824 in March 2009, an increase of 6.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 8,974, a 4.7% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in West Virginia was at 42.5% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, West Virginia spent \$106,550,745 in TANF funds, including 31.1% on basic assistance, 3.8% on child care, 14.0% on transportation, and 51% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, West Virginia spent \$26,250,841 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 51,770 participants.²¹
- In 2008, West Virginia collected and distributed \$190,372,242 in child support funds, an increase of 6.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in West Virginia was \$591 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$11.36 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, West Virginia had a monthly average of 9,300 children served by subsidized child care; 9,300 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 10,000 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in West Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$26,400, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, West Virginia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 7,682 West Virginia children, a 1.2% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 188,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in West Virginia—47.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 7,485 children were enrolled in Medicaid in West Virginia on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 7,485 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 296 received Targeted Case Management services, and 3,027 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, West Virginia had 24,418 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.1% decrease from 2007, when 24,939 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, West Virginia had 24,000 uninsured children, representing 6.2% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 2,024 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving West Virginia a rank of 46 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 155 infants under age 1 died in West Virginia, giving it a rank of 33 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 West Virginia was 21 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 80. This reflects a total rate of 45 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 1,575 adults and adolescents, as well as 11 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17, and 73,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in West Virginia.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 216 children aged out of out-of-home care in West Virginia.³⁸
- In 2008, 8,000 West Virginia teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 10,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 32,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 5,000 children ages 12–17 in West Virginia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 14 West Virginia children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.06 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 4 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in West Virginia, a 50% decrease from 8 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 2,317 children younger than 18 were arrested in West Virginia, a 1.3% decrease from 2,347 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 77 were for violent crimes and 27 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 579 children in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, West Virginia spent \$185,461,810 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 47% was from federal funds, 53% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$87,513,632 in federal funds received for child welfare, 34% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 10% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 36% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 17% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 4,410 children in out-of-home care in West Virginia in 2007, only 1,507, or 34.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

WEST VIRGINIA'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 West Virginia was \$23,784; the median income for a family of four in West Virginia was \$49,470.⁵⁴
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