



# W I S C O N S I N ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	5,627,967
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,311,613
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	13.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	12.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	16.4%

\*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Wisconsin had 54,704 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,978 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 7,856 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wisconsin, a rate of 5.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 8.5% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 2,432 were neglected, 910 were physically abused, and 1,902 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2007, 22 children in Wisconsin died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 7,446 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,641 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,464 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,546 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Wisconsin children in out-of-home care in 2007, 44.1% were white, 37.2% black, 8.3% Hispanic, 3.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.6% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 4,571 children exiting out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2007, 65.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 678 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a 23.4% decrease from 885 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 7,446 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,244 or 16.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 28,418 Wisconsin grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 7,446 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 30.5% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Wisconsin children in kinship care in 2007, 39.5% were white, 41.8% were black, 7.8% were Hispanic, 4.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.7% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Wisconsin increased from 37,522 in March 2008 to 38,879 in March 2009, an increase of 3.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 18,135, a 3.6% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Wisconsin was at 48.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Wisconsin spent \$445,764,631 in TANF funds, including 20.0% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 80% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Wisconsin spent \$58,103,155 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 121,754 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Wisconsin collected and distributed \$633,465,202 in child support funds, an increase of 3.6% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin was \$744 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$14.31 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 25,700 children served by subsidized child care; 29,500 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 28,700 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$33,876, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Wisconsin had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,538 Wisconsin children, a 0.4% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 421,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin—42.7% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 17,399 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 17,399 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 3,695 received Targeted Case Management services, and 418 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Wisconsin had 69,802 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 122.5% increase from 2007, when 31,368 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Wisconsin had 77,000 uninsured children, representing 5.8% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 4,974 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Wisconsin a rank of 8 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 462 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin, giving it a rank of 22 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 Wisconsin was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 55. This reflects a total rate of 31 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 4,716 adults and adolescents, as well as 33 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 41,000 children ages 12–17, and 293,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wisconsin.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 506 children aged out of out-of-home care in Wisconsin.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 12,000 Wisconsin teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 17,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 65,000 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 18,000 children ages 12–17 in Wisconsin needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 46 Wisconsin children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.94 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 22 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Wisconsin, a 15.4% decrease from 26 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 100,121 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin, a 4.9% decrease from 105,319 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,644 were for violent crimes and 1,402 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,347 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.<sup>47</sup>

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

- In 2006, Wisconsin spent \$330,634,124 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 51% was from federal funds, 49% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$169,501,024 in federal funds received for child welfare, 78% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 6% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 7,446 children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2007, only 2,776, or 37.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **WISCONSIN'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 Wisconsin was not available, but the median income for a family of four in Wisconsin was \$65,441.<sup>54</sup>
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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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