

ALABAMA'S CHILDREN 2003

State Population (2001)¹

4,464,356*

State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)²

1,123,422*

State Poverty Rate (2001)³

12.7%

State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)⁴

23%

State Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 (2001)⁵

21.1%

*Estimated

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 22,368 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Alabama, a rate of 19.9 per 1,000 children—a 44% decrease from 1990.⁶
- In 2000, 9,990 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Alabama, a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children—a 27% decrease from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 3.9 were neglected, 3.6 were physically abused, and 2.4 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2000, 27 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- On September 30, 2000, 5,621 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,511 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 27.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.2% were 16 or older.⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Alabama declined from 44,372 in December 2001 to 41,019 in June 2002, a decrease of 7.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 17,479, a 5.8% decrease from December 2001.¹⁰
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Alabama was 59% below the federal poverty level.¹¹
- In 2000, Alabama spent \$92,517,785 in TANF funds, including 39.5% on cash assistance, 0.9% on child care, and 2.1% on transportation and support activities.¹²
- In 2000, 11,650 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.¹³
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Alabama was \$484 per month, or 58.7% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.¹⁴

CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 24,500 Alabama children were in subsidized child care—11% of all eligible children.¹⁵
- In 2001, 16,498 Alabama children were served by Head Start, a 4.1% increase from 2000.¹⁶
- In 1999, 77.5% of high school seniors graduated in Alabama, compared with 78.8% in 1998.¹⁷
- In 1998, 364,832 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—58.0% of the state's total enrollees.¹⁸
- In 2001, Alabama had 68,179 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 44.9% increase from 2000, when 37,587 children were enrolled.¹⁹
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 49 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁰
- As of December 2001, 6,632 adults and adolescents, as well as 74 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Alabama.²¹
- In 2000, an estimated 60,846 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Alabama.²²

P E R M A N E N T F A M I L I E S F O R C H I L D R E N

- Of the 2,334 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 77.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.²³
- Of the 5,621 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 12.6% were living with relatives while in care.²⁴
- In 2001, 200 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Alabama, a .24% increase from 2000.²⁵
- In 2001, more than 54,053 Alabama grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.²⁶

For additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes, visit CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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