

# ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2003

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## State Population (2001)<sup>1</sup>

2,692,090\*

## State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)<sup>2</sup>

680,369\*

## State Poverty Rate (2001)<sup>3</sup>

14.6%

## State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)<sup>4</sup>

27.5%

## State Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 (2001)<sup>5</sup>

25%

\*Estimated

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 16,822 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Arkansas, a rate of 24.7 per 1,000 children—a 47% decrease from 1990.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, 7,479 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arkansas, a rate of 11.0 per 1,000 children—a 1% decrease from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 5.8 were neglected, 2.4 were physically abused, and 3.1 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2000, 12 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2000, 3,045 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,919 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 27.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.8% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Arkansas declined from 28,415 in December 2001 to 26,606 in June 2002, a decrease of 6.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 11,640, a 4.8% decrease from December 2001.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Arkansas was 55% below the federal poverty level.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, Arkansas spent \$112,328,239 in TANF funds, including 27.8% on cash assistance.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2000, 7,211 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arkansas was \$469 per month, or 56.9% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>

## CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 11,250 Arkansas children were in subsidized child care—6% of all eligible children.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2001, 10,818 Arkansas children were served by Head Start, a 4.6% increase from 2000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 1999, 81.7% of high school seniors graduated in Arkansas, compared with 76.8% in 1998.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1998, 236,727 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—55.6% of the state's total enrollees.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, Arkansas had 2,884 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 34.4% increase from 2000, when 1,892 children were enrolled.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 83 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>20</sup>
- As of December 2001, 3,139 adults and adolescents, as well as 38 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2000, an estimated 34,202 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Arkansas.<sup>22</sup>

**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 3,679 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 59.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>23</sup>
- Of the 3,045 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 8.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, 311 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arkansas, a .11% increase from 2000.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, more than 34,687 Arkansas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>26</sup>

**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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