

# C O N N E C T I C U T ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 3

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

3,425,074\*

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

841,688\*

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

4.8%

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

8.9%

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

9.6%

\*Estimated

## C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2000, 29,850 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Connecticut, a rate of 35.5 per 1,000 children—a 51% increase from 1990.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, 14,462 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 17.2 per 1,000 children. Of every 1,000 children, 10.3 were neglected, 2.5 were physically abused, and 0.7 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2000, 8 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2000, 6,996 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,707 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 23.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.5% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>

## C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Connecticut declined from 56,705 in December 2001 to 49,816 in June 2002, a decrease of 12.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 22,372, a 10.7% decrease from December 2001.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was 27% below the federal poverty level.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, Connecticut spent \$435,919,778 in TANF funds, including 38.1% on cash assistance and 1.0% on transportation and support activities.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2000, 11,230 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$885 per month, or 86.4% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>

## C H I L D C A R E , H E A L T H , A N D F A M I L Y S U P P O R T

- In 1999, 9,790 Connecticut children were in subsidized child care—5% of all eligible children.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2001, 7,207 Connecticut children were served by Head Start, a 4.9% increase from 2000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 1999, 88.2% of high school seniors graduated in Connecticut, compared with 83.7% in 1998.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1998, 213,695 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—53.1% of the state's total enrollees.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, Connecticut had 18,720 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 0.4% decrease from 2000, when 18,804 children were enrolled.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 15 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>20</sup>
- As of December 2001, 11,972 adults and adolescents, as well as 176 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2000, an estimated 52,010 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Connecticut.<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 2,368 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 67.1% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>23</sup>
- Of the 6,996 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 19.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, 499 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a .19% increase from 2000.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, more than 20,359 Connecticut 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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