

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2003

State Population (2001)¹

796,165*

State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)²

194,587*

State Poverty Rate (2001)³

5.3%

State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)⁴

8.8%

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

8.5%

*Estimated

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 5,566 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Delaware, a rate of 28.6 per 1,000 children—a 25% decrease from 1990.⁶
- In 2000, 1,813 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 children—a 14% decrease from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 3.0 were neglected, 1.9 were physically abused, and 0.9 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2000, 0 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- On September 30, 2000, 1,098 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,193 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 24.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.7% were 16 or older.⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Delaware declined from 12,318 in December 2001 to 12,238 in June 2002, a decrease of 0.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 5,419, a .70% decrease from December 2001.¹⁰
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Delaware was 44% below the federal poverty level.¹¹
- In 2000, Delaware spent \$55,074,843 in TANF funds, including 35.8% on cash assistance and 7.1% on child care.¹²
- In 2000, 3,006 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.¹³
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$717 per month, or 72.9% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage.¹⁴

CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 5,920 Delaware children were in subsidized child care—12% of all eligible children.¹⁵
- In 2001, 2,243 Delaware children were served by Head Start, a 5.5% increase from 2000.¹⁶
- In 1999, 86.1% of high school seniors graduated in Delaware, compared with 85.2% in 1998.¹⁷
- In 1998, 58,513 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—55.6% of the state's total enrollees.¹⁸
- In 2001, Delaware had 5,567 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 19.6% increase from 2000, when 4,474 children were enrolled.¹⁹
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 36 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁰
- As of December 2001, 2,803 adults and adolescents, as well as 24 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Delaware.²¹
- In 2000, an estimated 11,100 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Delaware.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 886 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 79.3% were reunited with their birthfamilies.²³
- Of the 1,098 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 10.5% were living with relatives while in care.²⁴
- In 2001, 103 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a .65% increase from 2000.²⁵
- In 2001, more than 6,699 Delaware 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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