

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN 2003

State Population (2001)¹

16,396,515*

State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)²

3,646,340*

State Poverty Rate (2001)³

10.5%

State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)⁴

18.3%

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

17.5%

*Estimated

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 117,523 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Florida, a rate of 32.2 per 1,000 children—a 36% decrease from 1990.⁶
- In 2000, 95,849 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 26.3 per 1,000 children—a 42% increase from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 9.4 were neglected, 4.2 were physically abused, and 1.5 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2000, 65 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- On September 30, 2000, 35,656 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 34,292 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 38.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.0% were 16 or older.⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Florida declined from 129,448 in December 2001 to 118,861 in June 2002, a decrease of 8.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 57,514, a 5.8% decrease from December 2001.¹⁰
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Florida was 47% below the federal poverty level.¹¹
- In 2000, Florida spent \$764,987,370 in TANF funds, including 30.6% on cash assistance, 3.4% on child care, and 0.7% on transportation and support activities.¹²
- In 2000, 37,256 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.¹³
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$727 per month, or 88.2% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.¹⁴

CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 58,630 Florida children were in subsidized child care—8% of all eligible children.¹⁵
- In 2001, 34,657 Florida children were served by Head Start, a 6.5% increase from 2000.¹⁶
- In 1999, 84.0% of high school seniors graduated in Florida, compared with 81.9% in 1998.¹⁷
- In 1998, 1,137,381 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—55.7% of the state's total enrollees.¹⁸
- In 2001, Florida had 298,705 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 23.9% increase from 2000, when 227,463 children were enrolled.¹⁹
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 32 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁰
- As of December 2001, 83,888 adults and adolescents, as well as 1436 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Florida.²¹
- In 2000, an estimated 196,128 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Florida.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 15,507 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 78.1% were reunited with their birthfamilies.²³
- Of the 35,656 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 40.9% were living with relatives while in care.²⁴
- In 2001, 1,605 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a .03% increase from 2000.²⁵
- In 2001, more than 136,105 Florida 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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