

GEORGIA'S CHILDREN 2003

State Population (2001)¹

8,383,915*

State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)²

2,169,234*

State Poverty Rate (2001)³

11.3%

State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)⁴

19.3%

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

18.4%

*Estimated

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 52,176 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Georgia, a rate of 24.1 per 1,000 children—a 40% decrease from 1990.⁶
- In 2000, 30,806 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Georgia, a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 children—a 15% increase from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 9.8 were neglected, 1.7 were physically abused, and 1.1 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2000, 45 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- On September 30, 2000, 11,204 children in Georgia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,991 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 35.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.2% were 16 or older.⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Georgia declined from 128,886 in December 2001 to 126,568 in June 2002, a decrease of 1.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 53,152, a 1.30% decrease from December 2001.¹⁰
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Georgia was 49% below the federal poverty level.¹¹
- In 2000, Georgia spent \$382,762,500 in TANF funds, including 35.2% on cash assistance, 9.1% on child care, and 21.3% on transportation and support activities.¹²
- In 2000, 20,817 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.¹³
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Georgia was \$719 per month, or 87.3% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.¹⁴

CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 38,170 Georgia children were in subsidized child care—8% of all eligible children.¹⁵
- In 2001, 23,140 Georgia children were served by Head Start, a 6.7% increase from 2000.¹⁶
- In 1999, 82.6% of high school seniors graduated in Georgia, compared with 80% in 1998.¹⁷
- In 1998, 746,845 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—61% of the state's total enrollees.¹⁸
- In 2001, Georgia had 182,762 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 34.0% increase from 2000, when 120,626 children were enrolled.¹⁹
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 44 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁰
- As of December 2001, 24,347 adults and adolescents, as well as 212 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia.²¹
- In 2000, an estimated 110,012 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Georgia.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 4,657 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 66.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.²³
- Of the 11,204 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 18.3% were living with relatives while in care.²⁴
- In 2001, 1,029 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Georgia.²⁵
- In 2001, more than 82,131 Georgia 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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