

# VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2003

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

613,090\*

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

147,523\*

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

6.6%

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

11.1%

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

9.9%

\*Estimated

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 2,948 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Vermont, a rate of 20 per 1,000 children.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, 1,347 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Vermont, a rate of 9.1 per 1,000 children—a 25% increase from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 3.5 were neglected, 2.0 were physically abused, and 3.7 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2000, 1 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2000, 1,318 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,445 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 14.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 31.3% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Vermont declined from 13,661 in December 2001 to 13,199 in June 2002, a decrease of 3.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 5,079, a 2.3% decrease from December 2001.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Vermont was 21% below the federal poverty level.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, Vermont spent \$59,035,362 in TANF funds, including 61.0% on cash assistance, 3.9% on child care, and 9.5% on transportation and support activities.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2000, 1,182 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Vermont was \$706 per month, or 70.6% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>

## CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 4,980 Vermont children were in subsidized child care—15% of all eligible children.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2001, 1,573 Vermont children were served by Head Start, an 8.6% increase from 2000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 1999, 90.0% of high school seniors graduated in Vermont, compared with 86.7% in 1998.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1998, 62,282 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—47.3% of the state's total enrollees.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, Vermont had 2,996 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 36.2% decrease from 2000, when 4,081 children were enrolled.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 63 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>20</sup>
- As of December 2001, 422 adults and adolescents, as well as 6 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Vermont.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2000, an estimated 9,810 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Vermont.<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 684 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 62.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>23</sup>
- Of the 1,318 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 9.9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, 138 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Vermont.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, more than 1,557 Vermont 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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