

# WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2003

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

1,801,916\*

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

402,393\*

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

13.2%

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

21.7%

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

20.5%

\*Estimated

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 16,525 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in West Virginia, a rate of 41.1 per 1,000 children—a 34% decrease from 1990.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, 8,244 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in West Virginia, a rate of 20.5 per 1,000 children—a 4% decrease from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 9.7 were neglected, 6.0 were physically abused, and 1.6 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2000, 4 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2000, 3,388 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,169 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 20.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.3% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in West Virginia declined from 42,927 in December 2001 to 39,383 in June 2002, a decrease of 8.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 15,183, a 6.3% decrease from December 2001.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in West Virginia was 45% below the federal poverty level.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, West Virginia spent \$134,042,359 in TANF funds, including 36.7% on cash assistance, 3.0% on child care, and 13.7% on transportation and support activities.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2000, 3,760 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in West Virginia was \$453 per month, or 55.0% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>

## CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 13,310 West Virginia children were in subsidized child care—25% of all eligible children.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2001, 7,590 West Virginia children were served by Head Start, a 5.9% increase from 2000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 1999, 77.1% of high school seniors graduated in West Virginia, compared with 76.4% in 1998.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1998, 209,341 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—56.1% of the state's total enrollees.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, West Virginia had 33,144 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 34.7% increase from 2000, when 21,659 children were enrolled.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 12 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>20</sup>
- As of December 2001, 1,168 adults and adolescents, as well as 10 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2000, an estimated 22,959 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in West Virginia.<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 2,256 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 39.9% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>23</sup>
- Of the 3,388 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 3.9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, 350 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in West Virginia, a .12% increase from 2000.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, more than 19,789 West Virginia 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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