

# W I S C O N S I N ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 3

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

5,401,906\*

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

1,368,756\*

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

5.5%

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

11.4%

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

12.1%

\*Estimated

## C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2000, 32,713 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Wisconsin, a rate of 23.9 per 1,000 children—a 16% decrease from 1990.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2000, 12,001 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wisconsin, a rate of 8.8 per 1,000 children—a 23% increase from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 2.4 were neglected, 1.3 were physically abused, and 3.5 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2000, 10 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2000, 10,148 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,637 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 22.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.8% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>

## C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Wisconsin increased from 44,168 in December 2001 to 45,803 in June 2002, an increase of 3.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 19,189, a 3.2% increase from December 2001.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Wisconsin was 17% below the federal poverty level.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, Wisconsin spent \$419,185,301 in TANF funds, including 14.4% on cash assistance.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2000, 5,758 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin was \$596 per month, or 72.3% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage.<sup>14</sup>

## C H I L D C A R E , H E A L T H , A N D F A M I L Y S U P P O R T

- In 1999, 24,940 Wisconsin children were in subsidized child care—7% of all eligible children.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2001, 13,478 Wisconsin children were served by Head Start, a 3.9% increase from 2000.<sup>16</sup>
- In 1999, 86.7% of high school seniors graduated in Wisconsin, compared with 88% in 1998.<sup>17</sup>
- In 1998, 299,364 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—55.6% of the state's total enrollees.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, Wisconsin had 57,183 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 17.6% increase from 2000, when 47,140 children were enrolled.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 35 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>20</sup>
- As of December 2001, 3,737 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2000, an estimated 75,832 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Wisconsin.<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 4,366 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 63.2% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>23</sup>
- Of the 10,148 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 6.0% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, 712 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a .13% increase from 2000.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2001, more than 30,445 Wisconsin 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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