

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2004

Delaware's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	807,385
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	197,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.1%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	12.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	11.2%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	13.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 5,478 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Delaware, a rate of 27.8 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 1,666 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 8.5 per 1,000 children, representing an 8% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 2.6 were neglected, 1.9 were physically abused, and 0.8 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Delaware.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 1,023 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,098 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 24.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 384 white children, 638 black children, 67 Hispanic children, 1 child of other race or ethnicity, and no American Indian/Alaskan Native children were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 916 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 77% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 117 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 255% increase from 33 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 1,023 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 466 or 46% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 1,023 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 10% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 8,080 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 5,503, a .0.4% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Delaware was 44% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Delaware spent \$55,505,538 in TANF funds, including 34.7% on cash assistance, 8.4% on child care, 21.3% on transportation and support activities, and 35.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Delaware collected and distributed \$53,405,899 in child support funds, an increase of 9.0% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$731 per month, or 74% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.15 per hour.²¹

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 7,500 of Delaware's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 7,100 in 2000 and 5,900 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 53% of Delaware's median income, or \$29,280, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- Despite the state budget shortfall, Delaware has no plans to cut state funds for child care.²⁴
- In 2002, Head Start served 2,231 Delaware children, a 0.5% decrease from 2001.²⁵
- In 2000, 78% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Delaware had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁶

H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2000, 61,912 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware, representing 32.6% of Delaware's total enrollees.²⁷
- In 2002, Delaware had 9,691 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 74.1% increase from 2001, when 5,567 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2001, 28 babies in Delaware were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,259—a rate of 48 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 2,995 adults and adolescents, as well as 24 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Delaware.³⁰
- In 2002, five Delaware children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.34 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2001, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12–17, and 14,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, two children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, compared with none in 2000.³³
- In 2002, 5,206 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 6% decrease from 5,536 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 1,288 were for violent crimes and 181 were for possession of a weapon.³⁴
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 347 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.³⁵

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R D E L A W A R E ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Delaware spent \$47,547,429 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁶ Of this amount, 40% came from federal funds, and 60% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁷
- In 2000, of the \$19,246,270 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 7% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 2% from Medicaid, 13% from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% from Supplemental Security Income, 1% from Survivors Benefits, and 13% from other federal sources.³⁸
- Of the 1,023 children in out-of-home care in Delaware on September 30, 2001, only 356, or 34.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁹

DELAWARE'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.⁴⁰
- In 2000, a caseworker in Delaware responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 10 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 19 families. In-home services include parent support programs, child day care, community-based counseling, and other services to enable children to live safely in their own homes.⁴¹
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Delaware was \$31,500.⁴²
- In 2002, the median income in Delaware for a family of four was \$69,360.⁴³

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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