

F L O R I D A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 4

Florida's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	16,716,149
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	3,732,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	12.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	16.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	16.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	20.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 151,039 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Florida, a rate of 40.5 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 124,134 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 33.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 30% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 11.2 were neglected, 5.2 were physically abused, and 1.7 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 91 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Florida.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 32,477 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 35,656 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 38.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 16,865 white children, 14,382 black children, 2,710 Hispanic children, 49 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1,181 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 17,061 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 81% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 1,761 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a 78% increase from 992 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 32,477 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 9,731 or 30% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 32,477 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 44% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 145,030 Florida grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Florida declined from 125,387 in March 2002 to 119,080 in March 2003, a decrease of 5.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 57,740, a 3.5% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Florida was 47% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Florida spent \$992,524,922 in TANF funds, including 25.8% on cash assistance, 4.5% on child care, 0.4% on transportation and support activities, and 69.4% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Florida collected and distributed \$700,413,455 in child support funds, an increase of 8.1% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$742 per month, or 90% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 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 80,500 of Florida's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 70,800 in 2000 and 76,600 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 63% of Florida's median income, or \$29,268, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Florida had 40,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Florida's child care budget is funded at last year's budget level, even though more than 47,000 children are on a waiting list for assistance.²⁵
- In 2002, Head Start served 35,610 Florida children, a 2.7% increase from 2001.²⁶
- In 2000, 72% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Florida had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁷

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, 1,183,247 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Florida, representing 33.7% of Florida's total enrollees.²⁸
- In 2002, Florida had 368,180 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 23.3% increase from 2001, when 298,705 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2001, 507 babies in Florida were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 24,217—a rate of 49 births per 1,000 girls.³⁰
- As of December 2002, 88,760 adults and adolescents, as well as 1473 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Florida.³¹
- In 2002, 89 Florida children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.12 per 100,000 children in the population.³²
- In 2001, an estimated 47,000 children ages 12–17, and 195,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³³

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, 23 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Florida, a 23% decrease from 30 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2002, 123,260 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida, a 6% decrease from 131,551 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 47,936 were for violent crimes and 1,777 were for possession of a weapon.³⁵
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 6,813 children in juvenile correction facilities in Florida.³⁶

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 F L O R I D A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Florida spent \$691,385,561 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 61% came from federal funds, and 39% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁸
- In 2000, of the \$421,657,591 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 6% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 3% from Medicaid, 45% from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% from TANF, 2% from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% from other federal sources.³⁹
- Of the 32,477 children in out-of-home care in Florida on September 30, 2001, only 7,380, or 22.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

FLORIDA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high case-loads, 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.⁴¹
- In 2000, a caseworker in Florida responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 22 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.⁴²
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Florida was \$27,116.⁴³
- In 2002, the median income in Florida for a family of four was \$55,351.⁴⁴

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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