

# NEW YORK'S CHILDREN 2004

## New York State's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	19,157,532
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	4,677,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	20.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	19.1%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	21.1%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 149,892 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in New York State, a rate of 32 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 77,860 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New York State, a rate of 16.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 15.0 were neglected, 2.2 were physically abused, and 0.6 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, 78 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New York State.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 43,365 children in New York State lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 47,208 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 28.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 17.2% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 14,321 white children, 19,865 black children, 7,162 Hispanic children, 91 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 9,088 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 18,703 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 65% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 3,934 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New York State, a 21% decrease from 4,979 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 43,365 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 20,418 or 47% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 43,365 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 20% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 131,125 New York grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New York State declined from 390,255 in March 2002 to 341,004 in March 2003, a decrease of 12.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 149,947, an 8.6% decrease from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in New York State was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, New York State spent \$3,851,521,064 in TANF funds, including 38.0% on cash assistance, 2.6% on child care, 8.6% on a range of other services, and 50.7% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, New York State collected and distributed \$1,148,800,884 in child support funds, an increase of 4.2% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New York State was \$981 per month, or 119% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

## **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 180,800 of New York's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 200,200 in 2000 and 170,000 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 61% of New York's median income, or \$29,256, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, New York funded its universal prekindergarten program at the FY 2001 level and limited the number of district participants. This program was originally scheduled to be funded \$500 million and available to all districts.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 49,493 New York children, a 1.1% increase from 2001.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 76% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in New York State had at least a high school degree or equivalent.<sup>26</sup>

## **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, 1,427,147 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in New York State, representing 30.9% of New York's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, New York had 807,145 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.5% decrease from 2001, when 872,949 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 328 babies in New York State were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 20,012—a rate of 34 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 153,457 adults and adolescents, as well as 2298 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in New York State.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 80 New York children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.55 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 56,000 children ages 12–17, and 317,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

## **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, 46 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New York State, a 31% increase from 35 in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 43,790 children younger than 18 were arrested in New York State, a 22% decrease from 55,995 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 12,590 were for violent crimes and 674 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,813 children in juvenile correction facilities in New York State.<sup>35</sup>

## **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 N E W Y O R K ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, New York State spent \$2,206,199,199 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 60% came from federal funds, 27% from state funds, and 13% from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$1,322,199,199 in federal funds received for child welfare, 43% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 1% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, and 1% from other federal sources.<sup>38</sup>
- Of the 43,365 children in out-of-home care in New York State on September 30, 2001, only 28,555, or 65.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>39</sup>

## NEW YORK'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.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in New York State for a family of four was \$64,520.<sup>41</sup>

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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