

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

## Ohio's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	11,421,267
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	2,882,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	11.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	21.1%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 70,079 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Ohio, a rate of 24.3 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 43,616 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Ohio, a rate of 17.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 19% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 9.4 were neglected, 4.5 were physically abused, and 2.7 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, 80 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Ohio.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 21,584 children in Ohio lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 20,365 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 30.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 17.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 9,852 white children, 10,324 black children, 588 Hispanic children, 54 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1,300 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 14,136 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 62% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 2,230 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Ohio, a 59% increase from 1,400 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 21,584 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 8,263 or 38% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 21,584 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 18% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 87,851 Ohio 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 Ohio declined from 192,973 in March 2002 to 188,108 in March 2003, a decrease of 2.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 84,336, a 0.3% decrease from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Ohio was 41% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Ohio spent \$901,111,960 in TANF funds, including 37.3% on cash assistance, 1.7% on transportation and support activities, and 61.0% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Ohio collected and distributed \$1,461,376,935 in child support funds, an increase of 3.6% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio was \$617 per month, or 91% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$4.25 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 84,000 of Ohio's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 71,900 in 2000 and 58,400 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 57% of the Ohio's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Ohio may lower its eligibility from 185% to 125% of the federal poverty level to address the expected \$500 million decrease in its child care budget.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 38,081 Ohio children.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 77% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Ohio 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, 775,212 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio, representing 27.5% of Ohio's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, Ohio had 183,034 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 15.7% increase from 2001, when 158,265 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 277 babies in Ohio were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 17,034—a rate of 42 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 12,606 adults and adolescents, as well as 127 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Ohio.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 64 Ohio children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12–17, and 138,000 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, 24 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Ohio, a 20% increase from 20 in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 46,858 children younger than 18 were arrested in Ohio, a 25% decrease from 62,689 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 9,741 were for violent crimes and 499 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,531 children in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio.<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 O H I O ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Ohio spent \$810,072,802 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 43% came from federal funds, 13% from state funds, and 44% from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$349,891,776 in federal funds received for child welfare, 87% 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, and 7% from the Social Services Block Grant.<sup>38</sup>
- Of the 21,584 children in out-of-home care in Ohio on September 30, 2001, only 13,307, or 61.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>39</sup>

## OHIO'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.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Ohio was \$16,291.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Ohio for a family of four was \$62,251.<sup>42</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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