

# OREGON'S CHILDREN 2004

## Oregon's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	3,521,515
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	856,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	13.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	12.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	19.3%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 16,647 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Oregon, a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 9,011 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 10.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 21% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 2.9 were neglected, 1.3 were physically abused, and 1.1 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oregon.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 8,966 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,193 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 35.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 5,971 white children, 855 black children, 760 Hispanic children, 533 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1,600 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,587 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 58% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 1,071 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 143% increase from 441 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 8,966 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 3,841 or 43% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 8,966 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 25,668 Oregon 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 Oregon increased from 42,341 in March 2002 to 43,591 in March 2003, an increase of 3.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 19,130, a 3.5% increase from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Oregon was 34% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Oregon spent \$258,234,954 in TANF funds, including 26.6% on cash assistance, 6.8% on child care, 5.7% on transportation and support activities, 2.6% on a range of other services, and 58.3% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Oregon collected and distributed \$271,048,814 in child support funds, an increase of 9.2% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$707 per month, or 64% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.90 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 25,600 of Oregon's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 20,100 in 2000 and 20,200 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 60% of the Oregon's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Oregon plans to replace a \$1 billion cut in child care funds with principal and interest from the state's unemployment insurance trust fund.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 9,199 Oregon children, a 0.8% increase from 2001.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2000, 74% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Oregon 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, 244,617 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon, representing 30.2% of Oregon's total enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, Oregon had 42,976 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.6% increase from 2001, when 41,468 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, 66 babies in Oregon were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 4,820—a rate of 41 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 5,339 adults and adolescents, as well as 18 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oregon.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, 19 Oregon children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.99 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 16,000 children ages 12–17, and 57,000 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, three children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, a 50% increase from two in 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 24,840 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 36% decrease from 38,821 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 6,500 were for violent crimes and 193 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>34</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,549 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.<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 R E G O N ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Oregon spent \$256,817,029 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>36</sup> Of this amount, 58% came from federal funds, and 42% from state funds; none came from local funds.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$149,562,241 in federal funds received for child welfare, 30% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 4% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 32% from Medicaid, 10% from the Social Services Block Grant, 22% from TANF, and 2% from Supplemental Security Income.<sup>38</sup>
- Of the 8,966 children in out-of-home care in Oregon on September 30, 2001, only 4,879, or 54.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>39</sup>

## OREGON'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, a caseworker in Oregon responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 14 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 16 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.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Oregon was \$31,248.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Oregon for a family of four was \$58,315.<sup>43</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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