

SOUTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2004

South Dakota's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	761,063
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	203,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	11.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	12.2%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	17.1%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 5,000 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in South Dakota, a rate of 24.7 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 3,707 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Dakota, a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 20% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 14.4 were neglected, 3.6 were physically abused, and 0.8 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in South Dakota.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 1,367 children in South Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,215 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 35.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 422 white children, 23 black children, 52 Hispanic children, 859 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 61 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,173 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 70% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 97 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Dakota, a 76% increase from 55 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 1,367 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 579 or 42% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 1,367 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 19% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 2,625 South Dakota 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 South Dakota declined from 6,680 in March 2002 to 6,143 in March 2003, a decrease of 8.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 2,771, a 4.8% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in South Dakota was 37% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, South Dakota spent \$23,133,819 in TANF funds, including 48.0% on cash assistance, 3.5% on child care, 14.9% on a range of other services, and 33.6% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, South Dakota collected and distributed \$47,463,266 in child support funds, an increase of 9.1% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Dakota was \$550 per month, or 67% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state 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 3,400 of South Dakota's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 3,600 in 2000 and 3,700 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 44% of the South Dakota's median income, or \$21,948, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- Despite the state budget shortfall, South Dakota has not proposed any child care funding cuts.²⁴
- In 2002, Head Start served 2,827 South Dakota children, a 3.4% decrease from 2001.²⁵
- In 2000, 78% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in South Dakota 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, 59,752 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Dakota, representing 28.4% of South Dakota's total enrollees.²⁷
- In 2002, South Dakota had 11,183 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 25.1% increase from 2001, when 8,937 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2001, 15 babies in South Dakota were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,148—a rate of 37 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 199 adults and adolescents, as well as 4 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in South Dakota.³⁰
- In 2002, 13 South Dakota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.82 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2001, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12–17, and 7,000 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 2002, 5,954 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Dakota, a 31% decrease from 8,618 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 1,144 were for violent crimes and 49 were for possession of a weapon.³³
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 603 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Dakota.³⁴

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 S O U T H D A K O T A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, South Dakota spent \$32,130,212 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁵ Of this amount, 61% came from federal funds, and 39% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁶
- In 2000, of the \$19,738,319 in federal funds received for child welfare, 32% 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, 10% from Medicaid, 24% from the Social Services Block Grant, 22% from TANF, 3% from Supplemental Security Income, and 5% from other federal sources.³⁷
- Of the 1,367 children in out-of-home care in South Dakota on September 30, 2001, only 625, or 45.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁸

SOUTH DAKOTA'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.³⁹
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in South Dakota was \$22,547.⁴⁰
- In 2002, the median income in South Dakota for a family of four was \$55,150.⁴¹

**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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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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