

VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2004

Vermont's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	616,592
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	148,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	12.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	11.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	11.2%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 2,872 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Vermont, a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 1,139 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Vermont, a rate of 7.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 15% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 3.2 were neglected, 1.6 were physically abused, and 2.9 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, one child died as a result of abuse or neglect in Vermont.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 1,360 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,318 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 14.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 31.3% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 1,320 white children, 24 black children, 7 Hispanic children, 4 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 6 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 581 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 71% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 116 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Vermont, a 45% increase from 80 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 1,360 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 400 or 29% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 1,360 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 10% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 2,399 Vermont 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 Vermont declined from 13,497 in March 2002 to 12,737 in March 2003, a decrease of 5.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 4,904, a 4.7% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Vermont was 21% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Vermont spent \$68,723,190 in TANF funds, including 55.3% on cash assistance, 10.7% on transportation and support activities, and 34.0% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Vermont collected and distributed \$40,697,472 in child support funds, an increase of 5.1% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Vermont was \$717 per month, or 72% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.25 per hour.²¹

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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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 3,500 of Vermont's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 5,700 in 2000 and 5,000 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 76.67% of the Vermont's median income, or \$31,032, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Vermont supplemented \$500,000 of the general fund money for child care with TANF funds.²⁴
- In 2002, Head Start served 1,573 Vermont children.²⁵
- In 2000, 83% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Vermont 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, 65,765 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont, representing 43.4% of Vermont's total enrollees.²⁷
- In 2002, Vermont had 6,162 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 105.7% increase from 2001, when 2,996 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2001, four babies in Vermont were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 524—a rate of 24 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 436 adults and adolescents, as well as 6 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Vermont.³⁰
- In 2002, two Vermont children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.25 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2001, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12–17, and 11,000 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, 1,851 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont, a 38% increase from 1,343 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 489 were for violent crimes and 9 were for possession of a weapon.³³
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 67 children in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont.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 V E R M O N T ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Vermont spent \$60,992,231 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁵ Of this amount, 63% came from federal funds, and 37% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁶
- In 2000, of the \$38,728,070 in federal funds received for child welfare, 46% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 3% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 25% from Medicaid, 15% from the Social Services Block Grant, 9% from TANF, and 2% from Supplemental Security Income.³⁷
- Of the 1,360 children in out-of-home care in Vermont on September 30, 2001, only 1,046, or 76.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁸

VERMONT'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 2002, the median income in Vermont for a family of four was \$59,125.⁴⁰

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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