

W Y O M I N G ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 4

Wyomings Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	498,703
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	129,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	10.7%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	9.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	21.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 2,705 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Wyoming, a rate of 21 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 990 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wyoming, a rate of 7.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 26% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 4.5 were neglected, 2.2 were physically abused, and 0.8 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, one child died as a result of abuse or neglect in Wyoming.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 965 children in Wyoming lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 815 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 12.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 862 white children, 32 black children, 71 Hispanic children, 16 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 55 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 689 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 73% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 46 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wyoming, a 188% increase from 16 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 965 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 166 or 17% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 965 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 12% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 3,446 Wyoming 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 Wyoming declined from 906 in March 2002 to 729 in March 2003, a decrease of 19.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 411, a 14.4% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Wyoming was 44% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Wyoming spent \$21,975,157 in TANF funds, including 9.2% on cash assistance, 25.8% on child care, and 65.0% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Wyoming collected and distributed \$44,714,476 in child support funds, an increase of 6.7% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wyoming was \$537 per month, or 65% 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 3,200 of Wyoming's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 3,000 in 2000 and 3,300 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 58% of the Wyoming's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2002, Head Start served 1,803 Wyoming children, a 2.6% increase from 2001.²⁴
- In 2000, 79% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Wyoming had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁵

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, 30,594 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wyoming, representing 22.1% of Wyoming's total enrollees.²⁶
- In 2002, Wyoming had 5,059 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 8.7% increase from 2001, when 4,652 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2001, seven babies in Wyoming were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 782—a rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 201 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Wyoming.²⁹
- In 2002, 10 Wyoming children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 7.09 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2001, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12–17, and 6,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

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, 6,231 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wyoming, a 31% decrease from 8,980 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 1,039 were for violent crimes and 45 were for possession of a weapon.³²
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 310 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wyoming.³³

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 W Y O M I N G ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Wyoming spent \$18,307,699 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁴ Of this amount, 64% came from federal funds, and 36% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁵
- In 2000, of the \$11,634,898 in federal funds received for child welfare, 21% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 7% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 19% from Medicaid, 38% from the Social Services Block Grant, 8% from TANF, 2% from Supplemental Security Income, 2% from Survivors Benefits, and 2% from other federal sources.³⁶
- Of the 965 children in out-of-home care in Wyoming on September 30, 2001, only 93, or 9.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁷

WYOMING'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.³⁸
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Wyoming was \$22,044.³⁹
- In 2002, the median income in Wyoming for a family of four was \$55,859.⁴⁰

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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