

ALABAMA'S CHILDREN 2005

Alabama's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	4,500,752
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	1,107,973
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	17.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	23.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	22.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	26.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 32,682 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Alabama, a rate of 29.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 9,903 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Alabama, a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 7% increase from 2000. Of these children, 42.0% were neglected, 45.6% were physically abused, and 23.8% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 29 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Alabama.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 5,883 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,859 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 25.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 47.7% white children, 50.3% black children, 1.1% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 0.8% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Alabama.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,692 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 77.1% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 249 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Alabama, a 4.6% increase from 238 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 5,883 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,535 or 26.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 44,686 Alabama grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 5,883 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 12.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Alabama children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 51.3% were white, 47.6% were black, 0.3% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.8% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alabama increased from 42,438 in March 2002 to 44,646 in March 2003, an increase of 5.2%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 18,786, a 4.4% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Alabama was 59% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Alabama spent \$170,681,442 in TANF funds, including 27.0% on cash assistance, 2.4% on transportation and support activities, and 70.5% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Alabama collected and distributed \$210,793,885 in child support funds, an increase of 5.3% from 2001.²¹

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Alabama was \$485 per month, or 59% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²²

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Alabama served an estimated monthly average of 34,000 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 31,500 children were served, and in 1999, when 24,500 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 43% of Alabama's median income, or \$19,020, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Alabama had 4,500 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 16,509 Alabama children were served by Head Start, a 0.1% decrease from 2002.²⁶

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 381,095 Alabama children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Alabama had 78,554 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.8% decrease from 2002, when 83,359 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 1,008 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Alabama. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 8,427, reflecting a rate of 54.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 7,059 adults and adolescents, as well as 76 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Alabama.³⁰
- In 2001, 31 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.5 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 30,000 children ages 12–17, and 252,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 10% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 3% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 20% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

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, 14 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Alabama, compared with 16 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 13,018 children under age 18 were arrested in Alabama, a 10% increase from 11,861 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 548 were for violent crimes and 144 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,617 children in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama.³⁷

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 A L A B A M A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Alabama spent \$271,997,873 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, 35% was from state funds, and 1% was from local funds.³⁹

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

- In 2002, of the \$271,997,873 spent for child welfare, 11% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 28% was from Medicaid, 13% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 8% came from TANF. The remaining funds (36%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 5,883 children in out-of-home care in Alabama on September 30, 2002, only 1,836 or 31% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

A L A B A M A ' S C H I L D W E L F A R E W O R K F O R C E

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.⁴²
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁴⁴
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Alabama was \$29,411 ; the median income for a family of four in Alabama was \$53,754.⁴⁵

R E F E R E N C E S

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2004, August). *Data Profiles*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2003/ACS/AL.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2004). *Child Maltreatment 2002*. Retrieved online, January 18, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). (2004). Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS). Washington, DC: Author.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Census Bureau, *Data Profiles*.
16. CWLA, Special tabulation of AFCARS.
17. Ibid.
18. Children's Bureau. (2003, March). *Temporary Assistance For Needy Families: total number of families and recipients*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/news/stats Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.
19. Calculations by CWLA, based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program: Fourth annual report to Congress*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2001). *The 2001 HHS poverty guidelines*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/01poverty.htm>. Washington, DC: Author; Food Research and Action Center. (2000). *Federal food programs: Food Stamp Program—Monthly allotments and deductions October 2002–September 2003*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsp_limits2002.html. Washington, DC: Author.

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

20. Children's Bureau. (2002). *Combined Spending of Federal and States Funds Expended in FY 2003 Through the Fourth Quarter (Table F)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofsf/data/tableF_2003.html. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.
21. Office of Child Support Enforcement, Children's Bureau. (2002). *FY 2002 Annual Statistical Report*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2003/reports/annual_statistical_report/table_4.html. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.
22. National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2002). *Rental housing for America's poor families: Farther out of reach than ever*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.nlihc.org/poor2003/index.htm. Washington, DC: Author; Employment Standards Administration Wage and Hour Division. (2003, July). *Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm. Washington, DC: U.S Department of Labor.
23. Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/01acf800/chldser1.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
24. Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/congressreport/2001CCDFreport.doc. Washington, DC: HHS.
25. Ibid.
26. Head Start Bureau. (2004). *Head Start Fact Sheet*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2004.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
27. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2003). *Medicaid Beneficiaries by Type of Service and Age Group (Table 6)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/msis/msis99sr.asp. Baltimore: Author.
28. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2004 February). *FY 2003 Number of Children Ever Enrolled in SCHIP by Program Type*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cms.hhs.gov/schip/enrollment/schip03.pdf. Baltimore: Author.
29. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2004). *Number of Teen Births by Age*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.teenpregnancy.org/america/statisticsDisplay.asp?ID=4&SID=30. Washington, DC: Author.
30. National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention. (2002, December). *AIDS cases and rates (per 100,000 population), by area of residence and age category, reported through December 2002—United States*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402/table14.htm. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
31. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2004). *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2001*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_fy.html. Atlanta: CDC.
32. Office of Applied Studies, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. (2000). *Estimated Numbers (in Thousands) of Persons Reporting Past Year Dependence or Abuse for Any Illicit Drug or Alcohol Among Persons Aged 12 or Older, by Age Group and State: 2002 (Table 17)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/2k2State/html/TotalPersonEst.htm. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
33. U.S. Census Bureau. (2004). *Armed Forces Status By School Enrollment By Educational Attainment By Employment Status For The Population 16 to 19 Years Old (Pct036)*. Washington, DC: Author.
34. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2004). *2004 Kids Count Data Book*. Baltimore: Author.
35. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2001*.
36. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2003). *Crime in the United States 2003*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/xl/02tbl69.xls. Washington, DC: Author; Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). *Crime in the United States 2004*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_03/xl/03tbl69.xls. Washington, DC: Author.
37. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/Selection.asp>. Washington, DC: Author.
38. Examples of direct services are child abuse and neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency.
39. Urban Institute. (2004). *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV: How Child Welfare Funding Fared During the Recession*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411115_VulnerableChildrenIV.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
40. Ibid.
41. CWLA, Special tabulation of AFCARS.
42. U.S. General Accounting Office. (March 2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Plan a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
43. Ibid.
44. Ibid.
45. CWLA. (2003). *State Child Welfare Agency Survey*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Census Bureau. (October 2003). *Median Income for 4-Person Families, by State*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html. Washington, DC: Author.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org