

# ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN 2005

## Arkansas's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) <sup>1</sup> .....	2,725,714
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>2</sup> .....	682,013
State Poverty Rate (2003) <sup>3</sup> .....	16.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>4</sup> .....	23.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) <sup>5</sup> .....	22.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) <sup>6</sup> .....	26.6%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 26,237 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 38.5 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, 7,302 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Arkansas, a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% increase from 2000. Of these children, 50.4% were neglected, 21.0% were physically abused, and 32.7% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2002, 13 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Arkansas.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 2,971 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,959 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 29.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 58.4% white children, 31.8% black children, 3.2% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 6.5% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Arkansas.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,196 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 81.0% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2002, 297 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arkansas, a 5.0% decrease from 362 in 2001.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,971 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 984 or 33.1% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 32,791 Arkansas grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 2,971 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 3.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Arkansas children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 40.8% were white, 51.0% were black, none were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.2% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arkansas declined from 28,291 in March 2002 to 25,382 in March 2003, a decrease of 10.3%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 11,640, an 8.8% decrease from March 2002.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Arkansas was 55% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2003, Arkansas spent \$54,234,711 in TANF funds, including 40.6% on cash assistance and 59.4% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2002, Arkansas collected and distributed \$128,845,269 in child support funds, an increase of 5.5% from 2001.<sup>21</sup>

# 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](http://www.cwla.org)

- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Arkansas was \$470 per month, or 57% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>22</sup>

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

- In 2001, Arkansas served an estimated monthly average of 9,300 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 10,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 11,200 children were served.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 60% of Arkansas's median income, or \$23,520, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, Arkansas had 853 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2003, 10,915 Arkansas children were served by Head Start, a 0.1% decrease from 2002.<sup>26</sup>

#### 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, 288,937 Arkansas children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.4% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2002, 330 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Arkansas. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 5,681, reflecting a rate of 59.9 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>28</sup>
- As of December 2002, 3,355 adults and adolescents, as well as 38 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Arkansas.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2001, 24 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.16 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2002, an estimated 20,000 children ages 12–17, and 182,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>31</sup>

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

- In 2003, 6% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 5% decrease from 2000.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2002, 20% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>33</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, 9 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Arkansas, compared with 10 in 2000.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2003, 9,128 children under age 18 were arrested in Arkansas, a 3% decrease from 9,410 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 267 were for violent crimes and 131 were for possession of weapons.<sup>35</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 652 children in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas.<sup>36</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 A R K A N S A S ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Arkansas spent \$68,005,126 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>37</sup> Of this amount, 66% was from federal funds and 34% was from state funds.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$68,005,126 spent for child welfare, 52% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 1% was from other federal sources.<sup>39</sup>

---

## 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](http://www.cwla.org)

- Out of 2,971 children in out-of-home care in Arkansas on September 30, 2002, only 1,096 or 37% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>40</sup>

## ARKANSAS'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- 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.<sup>41</sup>
- 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.<sup>42</sup>
- 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.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Arkansas was \$23,166 ; the median income for a family of four in Arkansas was \$49,551.<sup>44</sup>

---

## REFERENCES

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsp_limits2002.html). Washington, DC: Author.
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/ofis/data/tableF\\_2003.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofis/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.

---

# 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](http://www.cwla.org)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/msis/msis99sr.asp). Baltimore: Author.
28. 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](http://www.teenpregnancy.org/america/statisticsDisplay.asp?ID=4&SID=30). Washington, DC: Author.
29. 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](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402/table14.htm). Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
30. 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](http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_fy.html). Atlanta: CDC.
31. 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](http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/2k2State/html/TotalPersonEst.htm). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
32. 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.
33. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2004). *2004 Kids Count Data Book*. Baltimore: Author.
34. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2001*.
35. 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](http://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](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_03/xl/03tbl69.xls). Washington, DC: Author.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411115_VulnerableChildrenIV.pdf). Washington, DC: Author.
39. Ibid.
40. CWLA, Special tabulation of AFCARS.
41. 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](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf). Washington, DC: Author.
42. Ibid.
43. Ibid.
44. 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](http://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](http://www.cwla.org)