

California's Children At a Glance	
State Population (2003) ¹	35,484,453
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	9,419,970
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	13.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5–17 (2003) ⁵	18.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	20.3%

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

- In 2002, 512,880 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in California, a rate of 54.7 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 129 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in California.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 100,451 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 107,168 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 25.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.8% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 26.1% white children, 30.2% black children, 37.7% Hispanic children, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 5.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in California.¹⁰

P E R M A N E N T F A M I L I E S F O R C H I L D R E N

- Of the 45,625 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 58.2% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 8,741 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California.¹²
- Of the 100,451 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 6,358 or 6.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

K I N S H I P S U P P O R T

- In 2003, more than 263,334 California grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 100,451 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 34.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all California children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 21.5% were white, 36.6% were black, 37.0% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.2% were other races.¹⁶

C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California declined from 1,175,432 in March 2002 to 1,085,627 in March 2003, a decrease of 7.6%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 449,170, a 4.0% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in California was 21% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, California spent \$5,851,460,364 in TANF funds, including 53.3% on cash assistance, -121.5% on child care, 2.5% on transportation and support activities, 4.7% on a range of other services, and 41.3% on nonassistance.¹⁹ (A negative percentage could represent funds the state has carried over from a previous year; therefore, it may appear the state has overspent its annual funds.)
- In 2002, California collected and distributed \$1,761,395,793 in child support funds, a decrease of 11.4% from 2001.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,101 per month, or 102% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.75 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, California served an estimated monthly average of 202,000 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 183,400 children were served, and in 1999, when 137,400 children were served.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 75% of California's median income, or \$35,100, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, California had 250,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 98,767 California children were served by Head Start, a 0.1% increase from 2002.²⁵

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, 3,217,075 California children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 37.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2003, California had 955,152 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.5% increase from 2002, when 856,994 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2002, 317 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in California. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 50,222, reflecting a rate of 41.1 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 127,434 adults and adolescents, as well as 630 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in California.²⁹
- In 2001, 135 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.3 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2002, an estimated 252,000 children ages 12–17, and 2,331,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

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

- In 2003, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 2% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2002, 15% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³

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, 154 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, compared with 148 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2003, 220,348 children under age 18 were arrested in California, a 3% decrease from 227,266 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 15,374 were for violent crimes and 7,653 were for possession of weapons.³⁵
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 18,145 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.³⁶

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 C A L I F O R N I A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, California spent \$3,969,123,381 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 45% was from federal funds, 32% was from state funds, and 23% was from local funds.³⁸
- In 2002, of the \$3,969,123,381 spent for child welfare, 32% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 4% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 6% was from TANF. The remaining funds (55%) came from state and local sources.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

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- Out of 100,451 children in out-of-home care in California on September 30, 2002, only 58,010 or 58% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

CALIFORNIA'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.⁴¹
- 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.⁴²
- 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.⁴³

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