

COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2005

Colorado's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	4,550,688
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	1,152,751
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	13.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	11.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	16.4%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 40,552 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Colorado, a rate of 35.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 7,570 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Colorado, a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 57% increase from 2000. Of these children, 44.9% were neglected, 25.0% were physically abused, and 11.8% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 25 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Colorado.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 9,209 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,138 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 24.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 50.0% white children, 12.9% black children, 32.6% Hispanic children, 1.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 3.2% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Colorado.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,343 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 65.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 919 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 50.7% increase from 610 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 9,209 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 2,375 or 25.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 31,178 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 9,209 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 13.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Colorado children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 45.1% were white, 13.7% were black, 38.3% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado increased from 32,099 in March 2002 to 34,862 in March 2003, an increase of 8.6%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 13,321, an 8.4% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Colorado was 43% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Colorado spent \$236,188,305 in TANF funds, including 21.5% on cash assistance, 1.0% on transportation and support activities, and 77.5% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Colorado collected and distributed \$202,513,277 in child support funds, an increase of 6.7% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Colorado was \$847 per month, or 103% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state 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, Colorado served an estimated monthly average of 24,500 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 24,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 23,800 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 61% of Colorado's median income, or \$32,916, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Colorado had 567 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 9,843 Colorado children were served by Head Start, a 0.3% 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, 210,132 Colorado children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 53.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Colorado had 74,144 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 43.1% increase from 2002, when 51,826 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 330 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Colorado. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 7,238, reflecting a rate of 47.0 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 7,682 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Colorado.³⁰
- In 2001, 51 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.04 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 39,000 children ages 12–17, and 390,000 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, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 4% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 15% 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, 17 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Colorado, compared with 9 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 37,332 children under age 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 15% decrease from 44,035 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 850 were for violent crimes and 616 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,772 children in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.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 C O L O R A D O ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Colorado spent \$369,968,558 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, 47% was from federal funds, 36% was from state funds, and 17% 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

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- In 2002, of the \$369,968,558 spent for child welfare, 17% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% was from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 18% came from Medicaid, 7% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 3% was from TANF. The remaining funds (53%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 9,209 children in out-of-home care in Colorado on September 30, 2002, only 2,864 or 31% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

COLORADO'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.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

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