

C O N N E C T I C U T ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

Connecticut's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	3,483,372
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	835,375
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	8.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	11.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	9.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	14.0%

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

- In 2002, 53,414 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Connecticut, a rate of 63.7 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 12,818 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 6% increase from 2000. Of these children, 68.8% were neglected, 12.1% were physically abused, and 4.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 11 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Connecticut.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 6,007 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,440 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 23.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 32.8% white children, 35.9% black children, 26.5% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 4.8% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Connecticut.¹¹

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 2,787 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 67.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 617 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 39.0% increase from 444 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 6,007 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,118 or 18.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

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

- In 2003, more than 16,390 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,007 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 15.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 28.3% were white, 42.0% were black, 26.9% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.8% were other races.¹⁷

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 Connecticut declined from 52,903 in March 2002 to 43,292 in March 2003, a decrease of 18.2%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 20,274, a 14.7% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Connecticut was 27% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Connecticut spent \$449,933,853 in TANF funds, including 29.7% on cash assistance, 2.3% on child care, 3.4% on transportation and support activities, 0.5% on a range of other services, and 64.1% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Connecticut collected and distributed \$216,686,470 in child support funds, an increase of 6.8% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$936 per month, or 82% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$7.10 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, Connecticut served an estimated monthly average of 13,700 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 11,800 children were served, and in 1999, when 9,800 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50% of Connecticut's median income, or \$47,592, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Connecticut had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 7,129 Connecticut children were served by Head Start, a 1.3% 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, 204,336 Connecticut children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 29.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Connecticut had 21,471 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.6% increase from 2002, when 21,346 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 289 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Connecticut. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 2,901, reflecting a rate of 25.8 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 12,588 adults and adolescents, as well as 177 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁰
- In 2001, 22 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.33 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 215,000 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, 8% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 3% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 11% 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, six children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, compared with four in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 15,231 children under age 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 6% increase from 14,345 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 743 were for violent crimes and 231 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 630 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.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 N N E C T I C U T ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Connecticut spent \$139,672,616 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, 53% was from federal funds and 47% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$139,672,616 spent for child welfare, 49% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families. The remaining funds (47%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 6,007 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut on September 30, 2002, only 5,038 or 84% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

CONNECTICUT'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
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Connecticut was \$50,182 ; the median income for a family of four in Connecticut was \$81,891.⁴⁵

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