

# DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2005

## Delaware's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) <sup>1</sup> .....	817,491
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>2</sup> .....	198,842
State Poverty Rate (2003) <sup>3</sup> .....	8.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>4</sup> .....	12.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) <sup>5</sup> .....	10.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) <sup>6</sup> .....	15.9%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 8,042 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Delaware, a rate of 41.2 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, 1,304 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 22% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 41.3% were neglected, 21.1% were physically abused, and 8.7% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2002, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Delaware.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 886 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,023 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 26.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.7% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 31.0% white children, 62.8% black children, 6.0% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 0.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Delaware.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 928 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 72.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2002, 133 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 13.7% increase from 117 in 2001.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 886 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 227 or 25.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 6,086 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 886 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 9.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Delaware children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 37.8% were white, 58.5% were black, and 3.7% were Hispanic.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware stayed the same—12,351—from March 2002 to March 2003. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 5,503, a 0.4% increase from March 2002.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Delaware was 44% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2003, Delaware spent \$56,453,518 in TANF funds, including 35.5% on cash assistance, 8.7% on child care, 20.4% on transportation and support activities, and 35.3% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2002, Delaware collected and distributed \$59,507,990 in child support funds, an increase of 11.4% from 2001.<sup>21</sup>

# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$731 per month, or 74% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.15 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, Delaware served an estimated monthly average of 7,500 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 7,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 5,900 children were served.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 52% of Delaware's median income, or \$29,280, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, Delaware had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2003, 2,214 Delaware children were served by Head Start, a 0.8% 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, 61,024 Delaware children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 49.6% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2003, Delaware had 9,744 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.5% increase from 2002, when 9,691 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2002, 264 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Delaware. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,209, reflecting a rate of 46.3 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 2,995 adults and adolescents, as well as 24 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Delaware.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2001, 5 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.34 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2002, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 58,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

#### 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 5% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 14% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>34</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, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, compared with none in 2000.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, 6,592 children under age 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 27% increase from 5,206 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 541 were for violent crimes and 134 were for possession of weapons.<sup>36</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 305 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.<sup>37</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 D E L A W A R E ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Delaware spent \$51,369,725 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>38</sup> Of this amount, 40% was from federal funds and 60% was from state funds.<sup>39</sup>

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## 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 \$51,369,725 spent for child welfare, 26% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 4% was from other federal sources.<sup>40</sup>
- Out of 886 children in out-of-home care in Delaware on September 30, 2002, only 284 or 32% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>41</sup>

#### DELAWARE'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>42</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>43</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>44</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Delaware was \$31,500 ; the median income for a family of four in Delaware was \$69,469.<sup>45</sup>

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