

F L O R I D A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

Florida's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	17,019,068
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	3,924,123
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	13.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	17.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	21.2%

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

- In 2002, 254,856 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Florida, a rate of 66.1 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 122,131 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 31.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 2% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 32.4% were neglected, 14.5% were physically abused, and 4.9% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 97 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Florida.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 31,963 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 32,477 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 40.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 46.2% white children, 42.2% black children, 8.5% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 2.9% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Florida.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 17,340 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 77.6% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 2,307 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a 53.3% increase from 1,505 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 31,963 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 8,161 or 25.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

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

- In 2003, more than 132,251 Florida grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 31,963 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 45.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Florida children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 47.7% were white, 42.2% were black, 7.2% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.6% 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 Florida declined from 125,387 in March 2002 to 119,080 in March 2003, a decrease of 5.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 57,740, a 3.5% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Florida was 47% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Florida spent \$852,022,982 in TANF funds, including 29.4% on cash assistance, 4.8% on child care, 0.2% on transportation and support activities, and 65.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Florida collected and distributed \$803,427,506 in child support funds, an increase of 14.7% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$742 per month, or 90% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the federal 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, Florida served an estimated monthly average of 80,500 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 70,800 children were served, and in 1999, when 76,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 66% of Florida's median income, or \$29,268, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Florida had 40,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 35,350 Florida children were served by Head Start, a 0.7% 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, 1,203,814 Florida children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 49.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Florida had 443,177 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 20.4% increase from 2002, when 368,180 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 235 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Florida. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 23,181, reflecting a rate of 44.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 88,760 adults and adolescents, as well as 1473 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Florida.³⁰
- In 2001, 89 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.12 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 130,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,094,000 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 4% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 14% 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, 23 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Florida, compared with 30 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 122,706 children under age 18 were arrested in Florida, a decrease from 123,260 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 9,514 were for violent crimes and 1,986 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 6,776 children in juvenile correction facilities in Florida.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 F L O R I D A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Florida spent \$766,109,440 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, 57% was from federal funds, and 43% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$766,109,440 spent for child welfare, 24% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 18% was from TANF, and 1% was from Supplemental Security Income. The remaining funds (43%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 31,963 children in out-of-home care in Florida on September 30, 2002, only 6,273 or 20% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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

- 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 Florida was \$28,489 ; the median income for a family of four in Florida was \$57,473.⁴⁵

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