

IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2005

Idaho's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	1,366,332
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	372,027
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	18.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	16.1%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	19.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 9,412 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Idaho, a rate of 25.3 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 1,947 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 5.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 45% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 67.4% were neglected, 19.7% were physically abused, and 7.9% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Idaho.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 1,246 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,114 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 32.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 14.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 76.7% white children, 1.3% black children, 11.8% Hispanic children, 8.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1.9% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Idaho.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,047 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 81.8% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 118 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 10.6% decrease from 132 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 1,246 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 274 or 22.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 11,172 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,246 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 15.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 85.2% were white, 2.1% were black, 5.8% were Hispanic, 5.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho increased from 2,416 in March 2002 to 3,204 in March 2003, an increase of 32.6%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 1,713, a 22.9% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Idaho was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Idaho spent \$43,141,271 in TANF funds, including 14.7% on cash assistance, 0.7% on transportation and support activities, and 84.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Idaho collected and distributed \$95,669,488 in child support funds, an increase of 9.4% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$527 per month, or 64% 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, Idaho served an estimated monthly average of 9,700 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 8,300 children were served, and in 1999, when 7,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 45% of Idaho's median income, or \$20,472, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Idaho had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 2,939 Idaho children were served by Head Start, a 12.2% 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, 96,864 Idaho children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 61.6% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Idaho had 16,877 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.1% decrease from 2002, when 16,895 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 193 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Idaho. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 2,080, reflecting a rate of 39.1 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 544 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Idaho.³⁰
- In 2001, 24 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.77 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 14,000 children ages 12–17, and 90,000 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 3% 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, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, compared with none in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 16,117 children under age 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 3% decrease from 16,699 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 257 were for violent crimes and 196 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 530 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.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 I D A H O ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Idaho spent \$49,785,800 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, 59% was from federal funds, and 41% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$49,785,800 spent for child welfare, 17% 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, 19% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 1,246 children in out-of-home care in Idaho on September 30, 2002, only 599 or 48% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

I D A H O ' 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 Idaho was \$31,720 ; the median income for a family of four in Idaho was \$54,279.⁴⁵

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