

ILLINOIS'S CHILDREN 2005

Illinois's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	12,653,544
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	3,230,606
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	11.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	15.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	14.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	16.4%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 137,321 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Illinois, a rate of 42.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 28,160 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Illinois, a rate of 8.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 2% increase from 2000. Of these children, 55.3% were neglected, 35.5% were physically abused, and 16.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 70 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Illinois.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 24,344 children in Illinois lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 28,460 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 28.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 22.5% white children, 69.7% black children, 5.5% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 2.2% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Illinois.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,986 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 37.1% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 3,633 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Illinois.¹³
- Of the 24,344 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 6,781 or 27.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 90,295 Illinois grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 24,344 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 33.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Illinois children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 17.5% were white, 76.0% were black, 4.5% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.9% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Illinois declined from 140,358 in March 2002 to 99,952 in March 2003, a decrease of 28.8%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 38,472, a 23.3% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Illinois was 41% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Illinois spent \$989,412,328 in TANF funds, including 11.6% on cash assistance, 1.8% on transportation and support activities, and 86.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Illinois collected and distributed \$460,100,983 in child support funds, an increase of 8.5% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Illinois was \$823 per month, or 100% 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, Illinois served an estimated monthly average of 103,000 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 106,800 children were served, and in 1999, when 92,000 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50% of Illinois's median income, or \$21,816, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Illinois had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 39,640 Illinois children were served by Head Start, a 0.1% increase 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, 909,694 Illinois children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Illinois had 126,855 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 86.5% increase from 2002, when 68,032 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 183 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Illinois. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 18,217, reflecting a rate of 42.2 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 28,149 adults and adolescents, as well as 277 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Illinois.³⁰
- In 2001, 80 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.22 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 99,000 children ages 12–17, and 918,000 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 2% 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, 74 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Illinois, compared with 68 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 36,113 children under age 18 were arrested in Illinois, a decrease from 38,810 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 3,150 were for violent crimes and 1,278 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 3,560 children in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois.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 L L I N O I S ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Illinois spent \$1,373,409,026 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, 54% was from federal funds, and 46% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$1,373,409,026 spent for child welfare, 29% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3% was from Medicaid, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 12% was from TANF, 1% came from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (46%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 24,344 children in out-of-home care in Illinois on September 30, 2002, only 9,068 or 37% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

I L L I N O I S ' 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 Illinois was \$32,604 ; the median income for a family of four in Illinois was \$69,168.⁴⁵

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