

# KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2005

## Kentucky's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) <sup>1</sup> .....	4,117,827
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>2</sup> .....	994,182
State Poverty Rate (2003) <sup>3</sup> .....	17.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>4</sup> .....	23.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) <sup>5</sup> .....	21.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) <sup>6</sup> .....	28.7%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 62,738 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Kentucky, a rate of 63.3 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, 16,645 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kentucky, a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 5% increase from 2000. Of these children, 75.9% were neglected, 19.6% were physically abused, and 6.6% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2002, 23 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kentucky.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 6,814 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,141 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 26.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.6% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 72.6% white children, 18.2% black children, 0.7% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 8.2% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Kentucky.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,406 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 69.3% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2002, 559 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kentucky, a 2.4% decrease from 573 in 2001.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 6,814 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,932 or 28.4% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 38,021 Kentucky grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 6,814 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 11.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Kentucky children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 71.3% were white, 17.2% were black, 1.1% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 10.4% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kentucky declined from 77,477 in March 2002 to 76,688 in March 2003, a decrease of 1.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 34,861, a 0.1% decrease from March 2002.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Kentucky was 51% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2003, Kentucky spent \$191,054,893 in TANF funds, including 53.6% on cash assistance, 6.5% on child care, 2.4% on transportation and support activities, and 37.5% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2002, Kentucky collected and distributed \$280,917,646 in child support funds, an increase of 12.8% 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 Kentucky was \$499 per month, or 61% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 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, Kentucky served an estimated monthly average of 37,700 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 36,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 26,200 children were served.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50% of Kentucky's median income, or \$24,144, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, Kentucky had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2003, 16,091 Kentucky children were served by Head Start, a 0.6% 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, 418,455 Kentucky children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 51.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2003, Kentucky had 94,053 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.1% increase from 2002, when 93,941 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2002, 146 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Kentucky. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 6,899, reflecting a rate of 51.0 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 3,946 adults and adolescents, as well as 30 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2001, 18 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.67 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2002, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 269,000 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, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 2% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 20% 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 Kentucky, compared with seven in 2000.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, 5,646 children under age 18 were arrested in Kentucky, a 1% decrease from 5,717 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 268 were for violent crimes and 65 were for possession of weapons.<sup>36</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 990 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky.<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 K E N T U C K Y ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Kentucky spent \$331,951,216 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, 38% was from federal funds, and 62% 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 \$331,951,216 spent for child welfare, 20% 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, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 9% was from TANF, and 1% was from Supplemental Security Income. The remaining funds (62%) came from state and local sources.<sup>40</sup>
- Out of 6,814 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky on September 30, 2002, only 3,457 or 51% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>41</sup>

#### KENTUCKY'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 Kentucky was \$28,371 ; the median income for a family of four in Kentucky was \$54,030.<sup>45</sup>

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