

MAINE'S CHILDREN 2005

Maine's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	1,305,728
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	286,746
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	13.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	11.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	17.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 8,121 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Maine, a rate of 27.9 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 3,746 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maine, a rate of 13.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 14% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 66.1% were neglected, 28.3% were physically abused, and 16.9% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, three children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Maine.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 3,084 children in Maine lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,226 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 24.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 73.1% white children, 2.1% black children, 2.5% Hispanic children, 1.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 21.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Maine.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 740 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 43.0% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 311 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maine, a 14.6% decrease from 364 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 3,084 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 999 or 32.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 3,528 Maine grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 3,084 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 5.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Maine children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 64.2% were white, 1.9% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, 3.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 29.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maine increased from 26,494 in March 2002 to 37,562 in March 2003, an increase of 41.8%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 11,973, a 20.5% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Maine was 34% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Maine spent \$100,011,103 in TANF funds, including 66.2% on cash assistance, 12.1% on child care, 8.6% on transportation and support activities, and 13.1% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Maine collected and distributed \$96,058,639 in child support funds, an increase of 1.0% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maine was \$654 per month, or 65% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.25 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, Maine served an estimated monthly average of 2,100 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 2,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 2,900 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 85% of Maine's median income, or \$36,456, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Maine had 2,100 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 3,970 Maine children were served by Head Start, an 80.0% 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, 91,403 Maine children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 36.7% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Maine had 29,474 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 30.5% increase from 2002, when 22,586 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 130 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Maine. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,139, reflecting a rate of 25.4 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 1,023 adults and adolescents, as well as 9 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Maine.³⁰
- In 2001, 11 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.41 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12–17, and 83,000 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 2% increase from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 18% 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, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maine, compared with one in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 9,238 children under age 18 were arrested in Maine, compared with 9,277 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 112 were for violent crimes and 37 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 227 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maine.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 M A I N E ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Maine spent \$143,503,838 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, 42% was from federal funds, and 58% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$143,503,838 spent for child welfare, 35% 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, 1% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was TANF, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% came from Survivors Benefits. The remaining funds (58%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 3,084 children in out-of-home care in Maine on September 30, 2002, only 1,696 or 55% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

M A I N E ' 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 Maine was \$28,288 ; the median income for a family of four in Maine was \$58,802.⁴⁵

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