

MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2005

Maryland's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	5,508,909
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	1,378,092
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	8.2%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	10.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	9.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	11.2%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 15,843 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maryland, a rate of 11.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 20% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 55.8% were neglected, 32.4% were physically abused, and 14.1% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2002, 33 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Maryland.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 12,026 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 12,564 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 22.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.4% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 20.0% white children, 76.3% black children, 1.5% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 2.0% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Maryland.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,445 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 58.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 938 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maryland, a 15.1% increase from 815 in 2001.¹²
- Of the 12,026 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 3,004 or 25.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 50,115 Maryland grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 12,026 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 34.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Maryland children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 11.1% were white, 87.2% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.9% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maryland declined from 67,220 in March 2002 to 62,066 in March 2003, a decrease of 7.7%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 26,008, a 6.7% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Maryland was 38% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, Maryland spent \$365,922,505 in TANF funds, including 8.8% on cash assistance and 91.2% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2002, Maryland collected and distributed \$396,325,538 in child support funds, an increase of 4.5% from 2001.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland was \$980 per month, or 119% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²¹

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C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Maryland served an estimated monthly average of 21,200 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 19,500 children were served, and in 1999, when 22,200 children were served.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50% of Maryland's median income, or \$25,140, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Maryland had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 10,235 Maryland children were served by Head Start, a 2.8% decrease from 2002.²⁵

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, 389,086 Maryland children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 61.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2003, Maryland had 130,161 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.0% increase from 2002, when 125,180 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2002, 126 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Maryland. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 6,547, reflecting a rate of 35.4 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 25,045 adults and adolescents, as well as 313 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Maryland.²⁹
- In 2001, 32 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.12 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2002, an estimated 41,000 children ages 12–17, and 350,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 6% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 5% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2002, 11% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³

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, 29 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maryland, compared with 25 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2003, 51,325 children under age 18 were arrested in Maryland, a 101% increase from 25,518 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 3,255 were for violent crimes and 1,440 were for possession of weapons.³⁵
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,198 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland.³⁶

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 R Y L A N D ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Maryland spent \$431,512,479 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 48% was from federal funds, 48% was from state funds, and 4% was from local funds.³⁸
- In 2002, of the \$431,512,479 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, 2% was from Medicaid, 7% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 8% was from TANF. The remaining funds (52%) came from state and local sources.³⁹
- Out of 12,026 children in out-of-home care in Maryland on September 30, 2002, only 4,888 or 41% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

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MARYLAND'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.⁴¹
- 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.⁴²
- 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.⁴³
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Maryland was \$30,664 ; the median income for a family of four in Maryland was \$77,938.⁴⁴

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