

MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN 2005

Minnesota's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	5,059,375
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	1,248,770
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	7.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	9.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	7.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	12.6%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 26,344 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Minnesota, a rate of 20.9 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 9,982 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Minnesota, a rate of 8.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 1% increase from 2000. Of these children, 73.1% were neglected, 21.5% were physically abused, and 9.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 16 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Minnesota.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 8,052 children in Minnesota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,167 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 20.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.3% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 51.2% white children, 21.2% black children, 6.5% Hispanic children, 11.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 9.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Minnesota.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 9,700 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 80.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 626 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Minnesota, a 10.4% increase from 567 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 8,052 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,616 or 20.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 18,558 Minnesota grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 8,052 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 18.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Minnesota children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 41.8% were white, 28.3% were black, 6.5% were Hispanic, 14.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.9% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Minnesota declined from 94,631 in March 2002 to 93,665 in March 2003, a decrease of 1.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 36,257, a 1.2% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Minnesota was 28% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Minnesota spent \$497,665,506 in TANF funds, including 38.7% on cash assistance and 61.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Minnesota collected and distributed \$537,089,362 in child support funds, an increase of 4.9% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota was \$788 per month, or 101% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$4.90 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, Minnesota served an estimated monthly average of 26,400 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 24,500 children were served, and in 1999, when 17,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 44% of Minnesota's median income, or \$42,012, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Minnesota had 4,714 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 10,332 Minnesota children were served by Head Start, the same as in 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, 253,749 Minnesota children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 41.6% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Minnesota had 48 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program.²⁸
- In 2002, 108 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Minnesota. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 5,079, reflecting a rate of 27.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 4,049 adults and adolescents, as well as 27 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.³⁰
- In 2001, 46 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.25 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 45,000 children ages 12–17, and 373,000 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 1% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 9% 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, nine children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Minnesota, compared with seven in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 40,941 children under age 18 were arrested in Minnesota, a 5% decrease from 42,874 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 867 were for violent crimes and 500 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,946 children in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota.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 I N N E S O T A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Minnesota spent \$621,865,000 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, 36% was from federal funds, 22% was from state funds, and 42% was from local funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$621,865,000 spent for child welfare, 15% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 11% was from Medicaid, 3% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from TANF, and 5% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (64%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 8,052 children in out-of-home care in Minnesota on September 30, 2002, only 1,740 or 22% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

MINNESOTA'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.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 Minnesota was \$41,028 ; the median income for a family of four in Minnesota was \$72,379.⁴⁵

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