

MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2005

Missouri's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	5,704,484
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	1,407,342
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	11.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	15.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	14.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	17.9%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 80,653 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Missouri, a rate of 57.3 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 9,810 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Missouri, a rate of 7.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 6% increase from 2000. Of these children, 48.8% were neglected, 28.2% were physically abused, and 28.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 53 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Missouri.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 13,052 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 13,349 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 27.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 62.2% white children, 34.9% black children, 1.5% Hispanic children, 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Missouri.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,996 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 57.1% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 1,542 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Missouri, a 39.9% increase from 1,102 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 13,052 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 2,907 or 22.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 43,352 Missouri grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 13,052 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 22.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Missouri children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 56.8% were white, 40.8% were black, 1.4% were Hispanic, 0.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Missouri declined from 120,920 in March 2002 to 108,561 in March 2003, a decrease of 10.2%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 42,219, a 7.8% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Missouri was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Missouri spent \$298,592,954 in TANF funds, including 43.6% on cash assistance and 56.4% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Missouri collected and distributed \$410,866,655 in child support funds, an increase of 10.3% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Missouri was \$578 per month, or 70% 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, Missouri served an estimated monthly average of 35,900 children with subsidized child care, the same as in 2000, and a decrease from 1999, when 58,400 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 35% of Missouri's median income, or \$17,784, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Missouri had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 17,573 Missouri children were served by Head Start, a 0.4% 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, 532,649 Missouri children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Missouri had 150,292 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 34.2% increase from 2002, when 112,004 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 107 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Missouri. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 8,835, reflecting a rate of 44.1 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 9,946 adults and adolescents, as well as 60 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Missouri.³⁰
- In 2001, 50 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.18 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 42,000 children ages 12–17, and 368,000 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 4% 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, 25 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Missouri, compared with 21 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 48,176 children under age 18 were arrested in Missouri, a 24% increase from 38,813 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 1,882 were for violent crimes and 554 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,392 children in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri.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 S S O U R I ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Missouri spent \$487,278,630 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, 62% was from federal funds and 38% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$487,278,630 spent for child welfare, 18% 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, 6% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 5% was TANF, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, 1% came from Survivors Benefits, and 23% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (38%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 13,052 children in out-of-home care in Missouri on September 30, 2002, only 5,056 or 39% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

M I S S O U R I ' 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 Missouri was \$24,132 ; the median income for a family of four in Missouri was \$59,764.⁴⁵

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