

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN 2005

New Hampshire's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	1,287,687
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	306,231
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	7.7%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	8.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	7.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	8.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 10,564 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in New Hampshire, a rate of 34.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 962 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New Hampshire, a rate of 3.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 12% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 60.3% were neglected, 21.4% were physically abused, and 21.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New Hampshire.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 1,291 children in New Hampshire lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,288 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 23.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 86.2% white children, 4.0% black children, 5.0% Hispanic children, 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 4.4% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in New Hampshire.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 512 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 54.9% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 114 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Hampshire, a 20.0% increase from 95 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 1,291 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 193 or 14.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 4,447 New Hampshire grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,291 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 10.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all New Hampshire children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 92.5% were white, 2.2% were black, 1.5% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.7% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Hampshire increased from 14,823 in March 2002 to 15,061 in March 2003, an increase of 1.6%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 6,321, a 2.8% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in New Hampshire was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, New Hampshire spent \$72,475,794 in TANF funds, including 53.8% on cash assistance, -3.1% on a range of other services, and 49.3% on nonassistance.²⁰ (A negative percentage could represent funds the state has carried over from a previous year; therefore, it may appear the state has overspent its annual funds.)
- In 2002, New Hampshire collected and distributed \$76,021,041 in child support funds, an increase of 3.8% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New Hampshire was \$857 per month, or 104% 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, New Hampshire served an estimated monthly average of 6,600 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 3,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 6,800 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 48% of New Hampshire's median income, or \$31,776, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, New Hampshire had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 1,632 New Hampshire 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, 53,730 New Hampshire children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 55.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, New Hampshire had 9,893 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 21.6% increase from 2002, when 8,138 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 68 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in New Hampshire. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 881, reflecting a rate of 20.0 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 951 adults and adolescents, as well as 9 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in New Hampshire.³⁰
- In 2001, 13 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.79 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 14,000 children ages 12–17, and 104,000 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% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 10% 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 New Hampshire, compared with one in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 6,575 children under age 18 were arrested in New Hampshire, an 8% decrease from 7,165 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 74 were for violent crimes and 9 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 203 children in juvenile correction facilities in New Hampshire.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 N E W H A M P S H I R E ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, New Hampshire spent \$58,082,783 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, 48% was from federal funds, 40% was from state funds, and 13% was from local funds.³⁹

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 \$58,082,783 spent for child welfare, 12% 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, 23% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% was TANF, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, 1% was from Survivors Benefits, and 1% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (52%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 1,291 children in out-of-home care in New Hampshire on September 30, 2002, only 580 or 45% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

NEW HAMPSHIRE'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 New Hampshire was \$25,800 ; the median income for a family of four in New Hampshire was \$72,369.⁴⁵

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