

NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2005

North Dakota's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	633,837
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	146,827
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	11.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	12.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	15.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 7,089 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in North Dakota, a rate of 47.5 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 1,493 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Dakota, a rate of 10.2 per 1,000 children. Of these children, 64.6% were neglected, 22.6% were physically abused, and 9.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in North Dakota.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 1,197 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,167 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 25.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 57.9% white children, 2.8% black children, 4.3% Hispanic children, 29.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 5.3% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in North Dakota.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 864 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 66.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 137 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Dakota, a 5.5% decrease from 145 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 1,197 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 342 or 28.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 3,563 North Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,197 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 15.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all North Dakota children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 58.9% were white, 1.6% were black, 2.6% were Hispanic, 34.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota increased from 8,226 in March 2002 to 8,602 in March 2003, an increase of 4.6%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 3,406, a 6.9% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in North Dakota was 35% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, North Dakota spent \$41,915,124 in TANF funds, including 42.7% on cash assistance, 4.7% on child care, 2.6% on transportation and support activities, 18.7% on a range of other services, and 31.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, North Dakota collected and distributed \$50,844,528 in child support funds, an increase of 6.8% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota was \$519 per month, or 63% 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, North Dakota served an estimated monthly average of 4,700 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 4,500 children were served, and in 1999, when 4,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 64% of North Dakota's median income, or \$29,556, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, North Dakota had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 2,357 North Dakota children were served by Head Start, a 2.2% increase 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, 27,958 North Dakota children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 46.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, North Dakota had 4,955 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.0% increase from 2002, when 4,463 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 33 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in North Dakota. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 653, reflecting a rate of 27.2 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 111 adults and adolescents, as well as one child under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.³⁰
- In 2001, 5 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.89 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 7,000 children ages 12–17, and 50,000 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, 4% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 1% increase 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 North Dakota, compared with one in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 6,516 children under age 18 were arrested in North Dakota, a 7% decrease from 7,025 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 27 were for violent crimes and 20 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 180 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota.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 O R T H D A K O T A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, North Dakota spent \$32,237,497 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, 78% was from federal funds, 17% was from state funds, and 4% 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 \$32,237,497 spent for child welfare, 31% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 16% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 23% was from TANF. The remaining funds (22%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 1,197 children in out-of-home care in North Dakota on September 30, 2002, only 575 or 48% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

NORTH DAKOTA'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

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