

O H I O ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

| Ohio's Children At a Glance | |
|--|------------|
| State Population (2003) ¹ | 11,435,798 |
| State Population, Children | |
| Under 18 (2003) ² | 2,815,289 |
| State Poverty Rate (2003) ³ | 12.1% |
| Poverty Rate, Children | |
| Under 18 (2003) ⁴ | 17.9% |
| Poverty Rate, Children | |
| Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵ | 16.1% |
| Poverty Rate, Children | |
| Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶ | 21.7% |

C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2002, 110,495 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Ohio, a rate of 39.0 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 72 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Ohio.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 21,038 children in Ohio lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,584 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 30.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 46.6% white children, 45.3% black children, 2.5% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 5.4% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Ohio.¹⁰

P E R M A N E N T F A M I L I E S F O R C H I L D R E N

- Of the 14,421 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 64.8% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 2,396 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Ohio, a 7.4% increase from 2,230 in 2001.¹²
- Of the 21,038 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 5,739 or 27.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

K I N S H I P S U P P O R T

- In 2003, more than 72,761 Ohio grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 21,038 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 17.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Ohio children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 40.9% were white, 52.3% were black, 2.6% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.2% were other races.¹⁶

C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Ohio declined from 192,973 in March 2002 to 188,108 in March 2003, a decrease of 2.5%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 84,336, a 0.3% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Ohio was 41% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, Ohio spent \$1,006,682,404 in TANF funds, including 30.2% on cash assistance, 0.6% on transportation and support activities, and 69.2% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2002, Ohio collected and distributed \$1,617,586,413 in child support funds, an increase of 10.7% from 2001.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio was \$617 per month, or 91% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$4.25 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, Ohio served an estimated monthly average of 84,000 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 71,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 58,400 children were served.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 28% of Ohio's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Ohio had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 38,017 Ohio children were served by Head Start, a 0.2% 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, 761,997 Ohio children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 53.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2003, Ohio had 204,114 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.5% increase from 2002, when 183,034 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2002, 29 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Ohio. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 15,698, reflecting a rate of 39.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 12,606 adults and adolescents, as well as 127 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Ohio.²⁹
- In 2001, 64 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2002, an estimated 90,000 children ages 12–17, and 809,000 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, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 3% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2002, 15% 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, 24 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Ohio, compared with 20 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2003, 44,836 children under age 18 were arrested in Ohio, a 4% decrease from 46,858 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 975 were for violent crimes and 453 were for possession of weapons.³⁵
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,554 children in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio.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 O H I O ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Ohio spent \$860,302,907 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, 50% was from federal funds, 12% was from state funds, and 38% was from local funds.³⁸
- In 2002, of the \$860,302,907 spent for child welfare, 44% 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, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 3% was from TANF. The remaining funds (50%) came from state and local sources.³⁹
- Out of 21,038 children in out-of-home care in Ohio on September 30, 2002, only 12,312 or 59% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

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O H I O ' 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.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 Ohio was \$33,575 ; the median income for a family of four in Ohio was \$63,934.⁴⁴

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