

# OREGON'S CHILDREN 2005

## Oregon's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) <sup>1</sup> .....	3,559,596
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>2</sup> .....	849,172
State Poverty Rate (2003) <sup>3</sup> .....	13.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) <sup>4</sup> .....	17.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) <sup>5</sup> .....	14.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) <sup>6</sup> .....	23.6%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 27,913 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Oregon, a rate of 32.7 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2002, 9,228 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 10.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 2% increase from 2000. Of these children, 26.9% were neglected, 11.2% were physically abused, and 10.0% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2002, 21 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oregon.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 9,101 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,966 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 36.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.2% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2002, 59.5% white children, 8.1% black children, 9.5% Hispanic children, 7.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 15.4% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Oregon.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,646 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 59.8% were reunited with their birthfamilies.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2002, 1,115 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 4.1% increase from 1,071 in 2001.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 9,101 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 2,518 or 27.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 20,359 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 9,101 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 19.4% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 55.1% were white, 7.1% were black, 10.1% were Hispanic, 10.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 17.5% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon increased from 42,341 in March 2002 to 43,591 in March 2003, an increase of 3.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 19,130, a 3.5% increase from March 2002.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Oregon was 34% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2003, Oregon spent \$225,507,141 in TANF funds, including 36.4% on cash assistance, 9.2% on child care, 5.5% on transportation and support activities, 2.1% on a range of other services, and 46.7% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2002, Oregon collected and distributed \$275,879,302 in child support funds, an increase of 1.8% from 2001.<sup>21</sup>

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$707 per month, or 64% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.90 per hour.<sup>22</sup>

#### C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Oregon served an estimated monthly average of 25,600 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 20,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 20,200 children were served.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 46% of Oregon's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2001, Oregon had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2003, 9,052 Oregon children were served by Head Start, a 1.6% decrease from 2002.<sup>26</sup>

#### 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, 239,443 Oregon children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 42.4% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2003, Oregon had 44,752 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.1% increase from 2002, when 42,976 children were enrolled.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2002, 24 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Oregon. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 4,411, reflecting a rate of 36.8 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>29</sup>
- As of December 2002, 5,339 adults and adolescents, as well as 18 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oregon.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2001, 19 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.99 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2002, an estimated 26,000 children ages 12–17, and 242,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

#### 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 3% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 13% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>34</sup>

#### 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, three children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, compared with two in 2000.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, 26,649 children under age 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 7% increase from 24,840 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 538 were for violent crimes and 192 were for possession of weapons.<sup>36</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,508 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.<sup>37</sup>

#### 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 R E G O N ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Oregon spent \$259,147,279 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>38</sup> Of this amount, 67% was from federal funds, 31% was from state funds, and 2% was from local funds.<sup>39</sup>

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- In 2002, of the \$259,147,279 spent for child welfare, 20% 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, 21% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 17% was from TANF, 1% came from Supplemental Security Income, 1% was from Survivors Benefits, and 1% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (33%) came from state and local sources.<sup>40</sup>
- Out of 9,101 children in out-of-home care in Oregon on September 30, 2002, only 4,603 or 51% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>41</sup>

## O R E G O N ' 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.<sup>42</sup>
- 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.<sup>43</sup>
- 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.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Oregon was \$33,480 ; the median income for a family of four in Oregon was \$60,262.<sup>45</sup>

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