

P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

Pennsylvania's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	12,365,455
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	2,830,694
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	15.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	15.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	16.0%

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

- In 2002, 24,330 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Pennsylvania, a rate of 8.5 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 5,057 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 6% increase from 2000. Of these children, 3.9% were neglected, 38.3% were physically abused, and 54.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 52 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 21,434 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,237 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 23.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 39.9% white children, 50.1% black children, 9.1% Hispanic children, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 0.8% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania.¹¹

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 12,031 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 68.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 2,020 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania, a 29.2% increase from 1,564 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 21,434 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 4,236 or 19.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

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

- In 2003, more than 74,713 Pennsylvania grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 21,434 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 19.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Pennsylvania children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 22.2% were white, 70.1% were black, 7.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.4% were other races.¹⁷

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 Pennsylvania declined from 213,984 in March 2002 to 207,429 in March 2003, a decrease of 3.1%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 80,028, a 2.3% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Pennsylvania was 39% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Pennsylvania spent \$1,108,505,867 in TANF funds, including 29.2% on cash assistance, 2.0% on transportation and support activities, and 68.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Pennsylvania collected and distributed \$1,331,920,478 in child support funds, an increase of 6.4% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$681 per month, or 83% 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, Pennsylvania served an estimated monthly average of 65,100 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 81,300 children were served, and in 1999, when 83,900 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 55% of Pennsylvania's median income, or \$29,256, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Pennsylvania had 2,599 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 30,908 Pennsylvania children were served by Head Start, a 0.3% 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, 756,289 Pennsylvania children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 48.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Pennsylvania had 160,015 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.6% increase from 2002, when 148,689 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 24 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Pennsylvania. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 12,961, reflecting a rate of 31.6 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 27,796 adults and adolescents, as well as 340 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.³⁰
- In 2001, 79 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.46 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 94,000 children ages 12–17, and 746,000 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.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, 19 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, compared with 33 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 103,922 children under age 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, a 4% increase from 100,243 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 4,658 were for violent crimes and 1,423 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,066 children in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania.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 P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Pennsylvania spent \$1,281,310,642 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, 37% was from state funds, and 15% was from local funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$1,281,310,642 spent for child welfare, 25% 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 20% was from TANF. The remaining funds (52%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 21,434 children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania on September 30, 2002, only 12,425 or 58% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' 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

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