

TEXAS'S CHILDREN 2005

Texas's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	22,118,509
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	6,240,162
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	16.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	23.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5–17 (2003) ⁵	20.7%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	27.0%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 210,375 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Texas, a rate of 34.2 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 48,808 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Texas, a rate of 8.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 9% increase from 2000. Of these children, 61.7% were neglected, 26.9% were physically abused, and 15.4% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 206 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Texas.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 21,353 children in Texas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 19,739 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 37.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.8% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 32.5% white children, 27.4% black children, 35.8% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 4.1% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Texas.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 9,108 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 57.2% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 2,297 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Texas, a 0.9% decrease from 2,318 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 21,353 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 8,562 or 40.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 252,105 Texas grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 21,353 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 17.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Texas children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 29.9% were white, 31.6% were black, 34.2% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Texas increased from 330,095 in March 2002 to 333,435 in March 2003, an increase of 1.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 132,796, a 2.3% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Texas was 56% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Texas spent \$910,599,578 in TANF funds, including 35.5% on cash assistance, 0.8% on transportation and support activities, 8.1% on a range of other services, and 55.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Texas collected and distributed \$1,346,898,110 in child support funds, an increase of 14.7% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Texas was \$695 per month, or 84% 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, Texas served an estimated monthly average of 105,500 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 103,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 96,600 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 85% of Texas's median income, or \$38,052, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Texas had 38,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 67,764 Texas children were served by Head Start, a 0.1% 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, 1,547,587 Texas children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 58.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Texas had 726,428 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.1% decrease from 2002, when 727,452 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 16 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Texas. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 52,142, reflecting a rate of 64.4 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 59,380 adults and adolescents, as well as 392 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Texas.³⁰
- In 2001, 157 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.35 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 155,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,454,000 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, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 5% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 20% 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, 75 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Texas, compared with 55 in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 169,176 children under age 18 were arrested in Texas, a 6% decrease from 180,017 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 4,795 were for violent crimes and 1,661 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 8,524 children in juvenile correction facilities in Texas.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 T E X A S ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Texas spent \$824,978,690 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, 65% was from federal funds, 33% was from state funds, and 1% was from local funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$824,978,690 spent for child welfare, 20% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 9% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 27% was TANF, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, and 2% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (35%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 21,353 children in out-of-home care in Texas on September 30, 2002, only 11,063 or 52% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

T E X A S ' 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
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Texas was \$27,540 ; the median income for a family of four in Texas was \$56,278.⁴⁵

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