

UTAH'S CHILDREN 2005

Utah's Children At a Glance

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| State Population (2003) ¹ | 2,351,467 |
| State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ² | 742,927 |
| State Poverty Rate (2003) ³ | 10.6% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴ | 11.8% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵ | 8.5% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶ | 18.2% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 29,836 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Utah, a rate of 40.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 10,282 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Utah, a rate of 14.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 1% increase from 2000. Of these children, 21.3% were neglected, 16.1% were physically abused, and 21.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 12 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Utah.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 2,025 children in Utah lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,957 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 21.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 60.0% white children, 5.5% black children, 20.2% Hispanic children, 5.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 9.0% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Utah.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,118 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 70.5% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 346 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Utah, a 0.9% decrease from 349 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 2,025 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 456 or 22.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 15,720 Utah grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,025 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 3.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Utah children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 55.6% were white, 2.8% were black, 16.7% were Hispanic, 20.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.2% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Utah increased from 20,179 in March 2002 to 21,800 in March 2003, an increase of 8.0%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 8,581, an 8.9% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Utah was 35% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Utah spent \$130,840,102 in TANF funds, including 33.3% on cash assistance, 7.3% on child care, 1.9% on transportation and support activities, and 57.5% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Utah collected and distributed \$133,052,785 in child support funds, an increase of 4.5% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Utah was \$694 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, Utah served an estimated monthly average of 9,900 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 11,300 children were served, and in 1999, when 13,300 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 56% of Utah's median income, or \$26,928, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Utah did not maintain a waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 5,527 Utah children were served by Head Start, the same as in 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, 130,422 Utah children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 56.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Utah had 37,766 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.7% increase from 2002, when 33,808 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 10 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Utah. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 3,574, reflecting a rate of 36.8 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 2,168 adults and adolescents, as well as 21 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Utah.³⁰
- In 2001, 34 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.22 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 18,000 children ages 12–17, and 151,000 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, 6% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 1% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 11% 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, three children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Utah, compared with none in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 23,684 children under age 18 were arrested in Utah, a 17% decrease from 28,450 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 483 were for violent crimes and 408 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,015 children in juvenile correction facilities in Utah.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 U T A H ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Utah spent \$120,228,300 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 and 52% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$120,228,300 spent for child welfare, 21% 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, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% was from other federal sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 2,025 children in out-of-home care in Utah on September 30, 2002, only 966 or 48% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

U T A H ' 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 Utah was \$26,437 ; the median income for a family of four in Utah was \$59,864.⁴⁵

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