

WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2005

West Virginia's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	1,810,354
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	390,901
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	18.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	25.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	24.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	26.9%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 24,089 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in West Virginia, a rate of 61.2 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 6,635 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in West Virginia, a rate of 17.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 16% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 54.9% were neglected, 30.7% were physically abused, and 7.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 29 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in West Virginia.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 3,220 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,298 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 19.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 83.8% white children, 7.1% black children, 1.1% Hispanic children, no American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 8.0% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in West Virginia.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,502 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 20.7% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 361 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in West Virginia, a 0.3% decrease from 362 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 3,220 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,025 or 31.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 23,631 West Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 3,220 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 5.0% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all West Virginia children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 87.5% were white, 2.5% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in West Virginia declined from 43,111 in March 2002 to 41,478 in March 2003, a decrease of 3.8%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 16,001, a 1.7% decrease from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in West Virginia was 45% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, West Virginia spent \$156,861,048 in TANF funds, including 43.6% on cash assistance, 1.7% on child care, 11.1% on transportation and support activities, and 43.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, West Virginia collected and distributed \$151,193,843 in child support funds, an increase of 10.2% from 2001.²¹

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in West Virginia was \$457 per month, or 55% 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, West Virginia served an estimated monthly average of 7,800 children with subsidized child care, a decrease from 2000, when 11,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 13,200 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 51% of West Virginia's median income, or \$28,296, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, West Virginia had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 7,650 West Virginia 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, 172,011 West Virginia children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 49.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, West Virginia had 35,320 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.7% decrease from 2002, when 35,949 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, five babies were born to girls younger than 15 in West Virginia. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 2,630, reflecting a rate of 45.5 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 1,252 adults and adolescents, as well as 10 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.³⁰
- In 2001, 8 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.8 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 13,000 children ages 12–17, and 109,000 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, 10% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 2% increase from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 21% 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 West Virginia, compared with four in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 1,224 children under age 18 were arrested in West Virginia, a 30% decrease from 1,739 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 33 were for violent crimes and 6 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 475 children in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia.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 W E S T V I R G I N I A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, West Virginia spent \$154,448,327 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, 58% was from federal funds, and 42% was from state funds.³⁹

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

- In 2002, of the \$154,448,327 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, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 24% was from TANF. The remaining funds (42%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 3,220 children in out-of-home care in West Virginia on September 30, 2002, only 966 or 30% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- 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 West Virginia was \$23,784 ; the median income for a family of four in West Virginia was \$47,550.⁴⁵

REFERENCES

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2004, August). *Data Profiles*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2003/ACS/AL.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2004). *Child Maltreatment 2002*. Retrieved online, January 18, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). (2004). Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS). Washington, DC: Author.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Census Bureau, *Data Profiles*.
16. CWLA, Special tabulation of AFCARS.
17. Ibid.
18. Children's Bureau. (2003, March). *Temporary Assistance For Needy Families: total number of families and recipients*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/news/stats Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.
19. Calculations by CWLA, based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program: Fourth annual report to Congress*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2001). *The 2001 HHS poverty guidelines*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/01poverty.htm>. Washington, DC: Author; Food Research and Action Center. (2000). *Federal food programs: Food Stamp Program—Monthly allotments and deductions October 2002–September 2003*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/fsp_limits2002.html. Washington, DC: Author.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org

20. Children's Bureau. (2002). *Combined Spending of Federal and States Funds Expended in FY 2003 Through the Fourth Quarter (Table F)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofsf/data/tableF_2003.html. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.
21. Office of Child Support Enforcement, Children's Bureau. (2002). *FY 2002 Annual Statistical Report*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2003/reports/annual_statistical_report/table_4.html. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.
22. National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2002). *Rental housing for America's poor families: Farther out of reach than ever*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.nlihc.org/poor2003/index.htm. Washington, DC: Author; Employment Standards Administration Wage and Hour Division. (2003, July). *Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm. Washington, DC: U.S Department of Labor.
23. Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ccb/research/01acf800/chldser1.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
24. Child Care Bureau. (2003). *FFY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/policy1/congressreport/2001CCDFreport.doc. Washington, DC: HHS.
25. Ibid.
26. Head Start Bureau. (2004). *Head Start Fact Sheet*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2004.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
27. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2003). *Medicaid Beneficiaries by Type of Service and Age Group (Table 6)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/msis/msis99sr.asp. Baltimore: Author.
28. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2004 February). *FY 2003 Number of Children Ever Enrolled in SCHIP by Program Type*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cms.hhs.gov/schip/enrollment/schip03.pdf. Baltimore: Author.
29. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (2004). *Number of Teen Births by Age*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.teenpregnancy.org/america/statisticsDisplay.asp?ID=4&SID=30. Washington, DC: Author.
30. National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention. (2002, December). *AIDS cases and rates (per 100,000 population), by area of residence and age category, reported through December 2002—United States*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1402/table14.htm. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
31. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2004). *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2001*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from http://webapp.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_fy.html. Atlanta: CDC.
32. Office of Applied Studies, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. (2000). *Estimated Numbers (in Thousands) of Persons Reporting Past Year Dependence or Abuse for Any Illicit Drug or Alcohol Among Persons Aged 12 or Older, by Age Group and State: 2002 (Table 17)*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/2k2State/html/TotalPersonEst.htm. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
33. U.S. Census Bureau. (2004). *Armed Forces Status By School Enrollment By Educational Attainment By Employment Status For The Population 16 to 19 Years Old (Pct036)*. Washington, DC: Author.
34. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2004). *2004 Kids Count Data Book*. Baltimore: Author.
35. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2001*.
36. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2003). *Crime in the United States 2003*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/xl/02tbl69.xls. Washington, DC: Author; Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). *Crime in the United States 2004*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_03/xl/03tbl69.xls. Washington, DC: Author.
37. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (2004). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/Selection.asp>. Washington, DC: Author.
38. Examples of direct services are child abuse and neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency.
39. Urban Institute. (2004). *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV: How Child Welfare Funding Fared During the Recession*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411115_VulnerableChildrenIV.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
40. Ibid.
41. CWLA, Special tabulation of AFCARS.
42. U.S. General Accounting Office. (March 2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Plan a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
43. Ibid.
44. Ibid.
45. CWLA. (2003). *State Child Welfare Agency Survey*. Washington, DC: Author; U.S. Census Bureau. (October 2003). *Median Income for 4-Person Families, by State*. Retrieved online, January 14, 2005, from www.census.gov/hhes/income/4person.html. Washington, DC: Author.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Headquarters: 440 First Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20001-2085 • 202/638-2952 • Fax 202/638-4004 • www.cwla.org