

W I S C O N S I N ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 5

Wisconsin's Children At a Glance	
State Population (2003) ¹	5,472,299
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ²	1,332,894
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2003) ⁴	14.4%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5–17 (2003) ⁵	12.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	17.7%

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

- In 2002, 42,087 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Wisconsin, a rate of 31.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 14 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin.⁸
- On September 30, 2002, 8,744 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,290 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 24.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 16.3% were 16 or older.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 36.5% white children, 49.3% black children, 7.6% Hispanic children, 1.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 4.8% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Wisconsin.¹⁰

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 5,186 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 62.3% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹¹
- In 2002, 1,028 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a 36.3% increase from 754 in 2001.¹²
- Of the 8,744 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 1,863 or 21.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

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

- In 2003, more than 24,595 Wisconsin grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 8,744 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 26.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Wisconsin children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 14.4% were white, 69.6% were black, 10.8% were Hispanic, 1.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.3% were other races.¹⁶

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 Wisconsin increased from 44,661 in March 2002 to 47,712 in March 2003, an increase of 6.8%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 20,096, a 7.5% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Wisconsin was 17% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2003, Wisconsin spent \$489,124,365 in TANF funds, including 22.2% on cash assistance and 77.8% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2002, Wisconsin collected and distributed \$574,178,130 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.6% from 2001.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin was \$605 per month, or 73% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²¹

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

- In 2001, Wisconsin served an estimated monthly average of 26,300 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 21,100 children were served, and in 1999, when 24,900 children were served.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 51% of Wisconsin's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Wisconsin had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2003, 13,515 Wisconsin children were served by Head Start, a 0.2% increase from 2002.²⁵

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, 309,643 Wisconsin children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 48.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2003, Wisconsin had 68,332 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 9.5% increase from 2002, when 62,391 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2002, one baby was born to a girl younger than 15 in Wisconsin. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 6,436, reflecting a rate of 32.3 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 3,919 adults and adolescents, as well as 33 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.²⁹
- In 2001, 52 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.43 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2002, an estimated 44,000 children ages 12–17, and 428,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 4% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 2% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2002, 12% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³

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, 15 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Wisconsin, compared with 12 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2003, 79,901 children under age 18 were arrested in Wisconsin, a 30% decrease from 114,131 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 898 were for violent crimes and 855 were for possession of weapons.³⁵
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,941 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.³⁶

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

- In 2002, Wisconsin spent \$349,464,994 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 46% was from federal funds, and 54% was from state funds.³⁸
- In 2002, of the \$349,464,994 spent for child welfare, 32% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 8% was from TANF. The remaining funds (54%) came from state and local sources.³⁹
- Out of 8,744 children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin on September 30, 2002, only 3,174 or 36% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

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WISCONSIN'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.⁴¹
- 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.⁴²
- 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.⁴³

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