

# C A L I F O R N I A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 6

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## California's Children At a Glance

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| State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup>                    | 35,893,799 |
| Population, Children<br>Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup>    | 9,596,463  |
| State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup>                  | 13.3       |
| Poverty Rate, Children<br>Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup>  | 19.0       |
| Poverty Rate, Children<br>Ages 5–17 (2004) <sup>5</sup> | 18.0       |

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- On September 30, 2003, 97,261 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 100,451 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 26% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.4% were 16 or older.<sup>6</sup>
- Of all California children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 25.4% were white, 29% were black, 39.4% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% were of other races and ethnicities.<sup>7</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 44,350 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 61.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2003, 7,433 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California, a 15% decrease from 8,741 in 2002.<sup>9</sup>
- Of the 97,261 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 5,487 or 5.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>10</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 248,355 California grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>11</sup>
- Of the 97,261 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 32.8% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>12</sup>
- Of all California children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 21.4% were white, 35% were black, 38.1% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.7% were other races.<sup>13</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California decreased from 1,106,654 in March 2004 to 1,092,422 in March 2005, a decrease of 1.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 466,074, a 1.7% increase from March 2004.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in California was at 70.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2004, California spent \$6,177,940,510 in TANF funds, including 53.2% on basic assistance, 2.7% on child care, 1.8% on transportation, and 36.5% on nonassistance.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2004, California collected and distributed \$2,177,842,511 in child support funds, an increase of 2.1% from 2003.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,104 per month, or 102.2% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.75 per hour.<sup>18</sup>

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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 2004, an estimated monthly average of 159,000 of California's children received subsidized child care; 153,600 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 163,300 in 2002.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100, which is equivalent to 64% of the state's median income.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, California had 280,000 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 98,933 California children, a 0.2% increase from 2003.<sup>22</sup>

## **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, 3,340,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 39.2% of the total number of enrollees in California.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2001, 143,169 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 4.3% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in California.<sup>24</sup>
- California spent \$2,807 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2004, California had 1,035,752 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 8.4% increase from 2003, when 955,152 children were enrolled.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in California was 21.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68.1 births. This reflects a total rate of 40.1 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>27</sup>
- As of December 2003, 132,650 adults and adolescents, as well as 642 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in California.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 260,000 children ages 12–17, and 2,301,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>29</sup>

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

- In 2004, 6% of California teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 40% decrease from 2000.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2004, 8% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 144,000 children ages 12–17 in California needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 159,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2002, 139 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.34 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>34</sup>

## **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 2002, 157 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, a 1.9% increase from 154 in 2001.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2004, 204,602 children younger than 18 were arrested in California, a 7.1% decrease from 220,348 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 14,205 were for a violent crime and 7,729 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>36</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 18,145 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.<sup>37</sup>

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## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, California spent \$3,969,123,381 for child welfare services. *Child welfare services* refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this number, 45.2% was from federal funds, 32.1% was from state funds, and 22.6% was from local funds.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$1,795,256,381 in federal funds received for child welfare, 70.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1.8% was from Medicaid, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 13.1% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>39</sup>
- Out of 97,261 children in out-of-home care in California on September 30, 2003, only 56,007 children, or 57.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>40</sup>

## CALIFORNIA'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.<sup>41</sup>
- 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.<sup>42</sup>
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>43</sup>

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