

CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2006

Connecticut's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	3,503,604
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	838,788
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	10.0
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	12.2
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	10.8

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, 12,256 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.4% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 68.1% were neglected, 11.5% were physically abused, and 4.5% were sexually abused.⁶
- In 2003, 6 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Connecticut.⁷
- On September 30, 2003, 6,742 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,007 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 24.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.9% were 16 or older.⁸
- Of all Connecticut children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 33.6% were white, 33.4% were black, 28.1% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.8% were of other races and ethnicities.⁹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,143 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 73.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁰
- In 2003, 342 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 44.6% decrease from 617 in 2002.¹¹
- Of the 6,742 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 1,411 or 20.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹²

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 12,365 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹³
- Of the 6,742 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 16.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁴
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 29.6% were white, 37.5% were black, 28.8% were Hispanic, and 4.1% were other races.¹⁵

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut decreased from 42,889 in March 2004 to 39,812 in March 2005, a decrease of 7.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 19,608, a 5.3% decrease from March 2004.¹⁶
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was at 46.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁷
- In 2004, Connecticut spent \$434,876,878 in TANF funds, including 29% on basic assistance, 0.3% on child care, 3% on transportation, and 67.2% on nonassistance.¹⁸
- In 2004, Connecticut collected and distributed \$226,642,739 in child support funds, an increase of 1.9% from 2003.¹⁹

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- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$931 per month, or 82% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$7.10 per hour.²⁰

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 10,300 of Connecticut's children received subsidized child care; 11,700 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 15,300 in 2002.²¹
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$36,120, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²²
- In 2005, Connecticut had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²³
- In 2004, Head Start served 7,148 Connecticut children, a 0.3% increase from 2003.²⁴

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, 242,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.7% of the total number of enrollees in Connecticut.²⁵
- In 2001, 8,858 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 3.6% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut.²⁶
- Connecticut spent \$1,481 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, Connecticut had 21,438 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.2% increase from 2003, when 20,971 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Connecticut was 12.9 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 43.6 births. This reflects a total rate of 24.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁹
- As of December 2003, 13,284 adults and adolescents, as well as 180 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁰
- In 2003, an estimated 26,000 children ages 12–17, and 224,000 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 2004, 4% of Connecticut teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 63.6% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2004, 8% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³
- In 2003, an estimated 15,000 children ages 12–17 in Connecticut needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 15,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2002, 14 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.51 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁶

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, 6 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, the same as in 2001.³⁷
- In 2004, 19,671 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 29.2% increase from 15,231 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 974 were for a violent crime and 321 were for possession of a weapon.³⁸

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- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 630 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.³⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Connecticut spent \$139,672,616 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, 52.9% was from federal funds, and 47.1% was from state funds.⁴⁰
- In 2002, of the \$73,862,288 in federal funds received for child welfare, 92.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and 7.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.⁴¹
- Out of 6,742 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut on September 30, 2003, only 5,479 children, or 81.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴²

CONNECTICUT'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.⁴³
- 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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Connecticut was \$50,182 ; the median income for a family of four in Connecticut was \$81,891.⁴⁶

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