

# DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2006

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## Delaware's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup> ....	830,364
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup> .....	193,506
State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup> .....	9.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup> .....	13.0
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) <sup>5</sup> .....	10.8

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 7,410 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 5,469 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2003, 1,236 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 6.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.2% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 36.5% were neglected, 25.1% were physically abused, and 12.4% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2003, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Delaware.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2003, 814 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 886 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 24.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.4% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of all Delaware children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 33.7% were white, 59.7% were black, 6.5% were Hispanic, and 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 810 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 72.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2003, 101 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 24.1% decrease from 133 in 2002.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 814 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 171 or 21% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 9,026 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 814 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 12% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Delaware children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 33.7% were white, 61.2% were black, and 5.1% were Hispanic.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware decreased from 12,440 in March 2004 to 12,296 in March 2005, a decrease of 1.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 5,531, a 0.4% decrease from March 2004.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Delaware was at 35.6% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Delaware spent \$53,520,701 in TANF funds, including 38.2% on basic assistance, 8.3% on child care, 14.9% on transportation, and 38.7% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>

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- In 2004, Delaware collected and distributed \$63,647,137 in child support funds, an increase of 3.5% from 2003.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$737 per month, or 74.9% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.15 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

### **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 6,400 of Delaware's children received subsidized child care; 6,800 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 6,300 in 2002.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Delaware, a family of three could make no more than \$31,344, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2005, Delaware had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 2,197 Delaware children, a 0.8% decrease from 2003.<sup>25</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, 61,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 46.1% of the total number of enrollees in Delaware.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 1,934 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 3.1% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware.<sup>27</sup>
- Delaware spent \$8,573 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Delaware had 10,250 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.5% increase from 2003, when 9,903 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Delaware was 23.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 77.7 births. This reflects a total rate of 44.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>30</sup>
- As of December 2003, 3,206 adults and adolescents, as well as 25 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Delaware.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 56,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

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

- In 2004, 8% of Delaware teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 33.3% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 7% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 3,000 children ages 12–17 in Delaware needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2002, 7 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.23 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>37</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, 1 child under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, a 50% decrease from 2 in 2001.<sup>38</sup>

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- In 2004, 6,767 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 2.7% increase from 6,592 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 395 were for a violent crime and 139 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>39</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 305 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.<sup>40</sup>

### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Delaware spent \$51,369,725 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, 40% was from federal funds, and 60% was from state funds.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$20,549,252 in federal funds received for child welfare, 65% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1.3% was from Medicaid, 12.8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1.2% came from Supplemental Security Income, 0.9% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 10.4% came from other federal sources.<sup>42</sup>
- Out of 814 children in out-of-home care in Delaware on September 30, 2003, only 238 children, or 29.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>43</sup>

### DELAWARE'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>44</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>45</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>46</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Delaware was \$31,500 ; the median income for a family of four in Delaware was \$69,469.<sup>47</sup>

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