

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

Florida's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	17,397,161
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	4,003,290
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	11.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	17.0
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	15.2

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

- In 2003, there were 248,702 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 157,474 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 138,499 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 35.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 13.4% increase from 2002. Of these children, 30.2% were neglected, 13.9% were physically abused, and 4.5% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 101 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Florida.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 30,677 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 31,963 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 41.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Florida children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 45.8% were white, 42.4% were black, 9% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.7% were of other races and ethnicities.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 21,585 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 73.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 2,786 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a 20.8% increase from 2,307 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 30,677 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 8,230 or 26.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

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

- In 2004, approximately 125,456 Florida grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 30,677 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 44.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Florida children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 47.4% were white, 42.5% were black, 7.8% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2% 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 Florida decreased from 112,053 in March 2004 to 104,503 in March 2005, a decrease of 6.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 59,761, a 7.2% increase from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Florida was at 32.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Florida spent \$877,065,735 in TANF funds, including 27.3% on basic assistance, 1.8% on child care, 0.1% on transportation, and 69.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Florida collected and distributed \$982,706,031 in child support funds, an increase of 10.3% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$799 per month, or 81.2% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.15 per hour.²¹

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 105,200 of Florida's children received subsidized child care; 121,200 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 96,000 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than \$24,135, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Florida had 39,677 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 35,574 Florida children, a 0.6% increase from 2003.²⁵

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, 1,231,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 50% of the total number of enrollees in Florida.²⁶
- In 2001, 40,545 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 3.3% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Florida.²⁷
- Florida spent \$3,349 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Florida had 419,707 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.3% decrease from 2003, when 443,177 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Florida was 22.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 74.2 births. This reflects a total rate of 42.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 93,235 adults and adolescents, as well as 1,490 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Florida.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 119,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,112,000 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 2004, 8% of Florida teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 33.3% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2004, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 70,000 children ages 12–17 in Florida needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 66,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 87 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.03 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁷

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, 43 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Florida, an 87% increase from 23 in 2001.³⁸

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- In 2004, 121,143 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida, a 1.3% decrease from 122,706 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 8,662 were for a violent crime and 2,712 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 6,776 children in juvenile correction facilities in Florida.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Florida spent \$766,109,440 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, 57% was from federal funds, 42.9% was from state funds, and 0.1% was from local funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$436,772,421 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.9% was from Medicaid, 14.6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 31.5% was from TANF, 2.3% came from Supplemental Security Income, and 0.8% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 30,677 children in out-of-home care in Florida on September 30, 2003, only 6,074 children, or 19.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

FLORIDA'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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵
- 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.⁴⁶
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Florida was \$28,489 ; the median income for a family of four in Florida was \$57,473.⁴⁷

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