

# IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2006

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## Idaho's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup>	1,393,262
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup>	372,411
State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup>	9.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup>	12.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) <sup>5</sup>	11.2

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 13,520 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 6,264 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2003, 1,527 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 4.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 21.6% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 70.1% were neglected, 16.9% were physically abused, and 7.7% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2003, 2 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Idaho.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2003, 1,401 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,246 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 35.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 14.1% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of all Idaho children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 72.5% were white, 1.7% were black, 14.1% were Hispanic, 9.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.4% were of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,101 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 80.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2003, 138 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 16.9% increase from 118 in 2002.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 1,401 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 269 or 19.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 8,741 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 1,401 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 15.1% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 73.5% were white, 1.9% were black, 13.3% were Hispanic, 9.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.9% were other races.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho decreased from 3,718 in March 2004 to 3,446 in March 2005, a decrease of 7.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 1,919, a 2.1% decrease from March 2004.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Idaho was at 37.8% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Idaho spent \$41,469,678 in TANF funds, including 17.4% on basic assistance, 0.1% on transportation, and 82.5% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>

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- In 2004, Idaho collected and distributed \$110,889,809 in child support funds, an increase of 7.6% from 2003.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$582 per month, or 70.6% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 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 10,300 of Idaho's children received subsidized child care; 7,800 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 7,600 in 2002.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Idaho, a family of three could make no more than \$20,472, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2005, Idaho had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 2,957 Idaho children, a 0.6% increase 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, 110,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 63.8% of the total number of enrollees in Idaho.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 1,973 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 1.8% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho.<sup>27</sup>
- Idaho spent \$3,003 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Idaho had 19,054 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 12.9% increase from 2003, when 16,877 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Idaho was 17.4 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70.7 births. This reflects a total rate of 39.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>30</sup>
- As of December 2003, 569 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Idaho.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 14,000 children ages 12–17, and 92,000 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, 6% of Idaho teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 40% 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 7,000 children ages 12–17 in Idaho needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 10,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2002, 17 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.08 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, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, compared with 2 in 2001.<sup>38</sup>

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- In 2004, 15,567 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 3.4% decrease from 16,117 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 249 were for a violent crime and 205 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>39</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 530 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.<sup>40</sup>

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

- In 2002, Idaho spent \$49,785,800 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, 58.5% was from federal funds, and 41.5% was from state funds.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$29,142,100 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2.1% was from Medicaid, 33.1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 25.8% was from TANF, and 1.9% came from other federal sources.<sup>42</sup>
- Out of 1,401 children in out-of-home care in Idaho on September 30, 2003, only 737 children, or 52.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>43</sup>

### IDAHO'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 Idaho was \$31,720 ; the median income for a family of four in Idaho was \$54,279.<sup>47</sup>

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