

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

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## Iowa's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup>	2,954,451
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup>	680,437
State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup>	10.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup>	12.8
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) <sup>5</sup>	11.1

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

- In 2003, there were 36,823 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 24,172 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2003, 13,303 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Iowa, a rate of 19.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 9% increase from 2002. Of these children, 74% were neglected, 15.5% were physically abused, and 6.7% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2003, 16 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Iowa.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2003, 5,011 children in Iowa lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,238 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 24.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.4% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of all Iowa children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 71% were white, 12.3% were black, 5% were Hispanic, 2.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.7% were of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## 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 5,723 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 72.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2003, 1,130 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Iowa, a 28.1% increase from 882 in 2002.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 5,011 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 1,138 or 22.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

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

- In 2004, approximately 11,732 Iowa grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 5,011 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 0.7% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Iowa children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 75% were white, 13.9% were black, and 11.1% were Hispanic.<sup>16</sup>

## 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 Iowa increased from 44,673 in March 2004 to 42,942 in March 2005, an increase of 3.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 17,738, a 3.1% decrease from March 2004.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Iowa was at 40.5% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Iowa spent \$163,222,300 in TANF funds, including 48.9% on basic assistance, 1.4% on transportation, and 49.7% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>

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- In 2004, Iowa collected and distributed \$280,399,263 in child support funds, an increase of 3.9% from 2003.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Iowa was \$559 per month, or 67.8% 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 16,400 of Iowa's children received subsidized child care; 14,100 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 15,400 in 2002.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Iowa, a family of three could make no more than \$21,936, which is equivalent to 43% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2005, Iowa had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 7,775 Iowa children, a 0.8% 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, 167,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 50.4% of the total number of enrollees in Iowa.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 9,640 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 5.8% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Iowa.<sup>27</sup>
- Iowa spent \$4,055 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Iowa had 40,776 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10% increase from 2003, when 37,060 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Iowa was 15.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 55.5 births. This reflects a total rate of 31.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>30</sup>
- As of December 2003, 1,554 adults and adolescents, as well as 13 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Iowa.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 23,000 children ages 12–17, and 208,000 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, 3% of Iowa teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 40% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 5% 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 10,000 children ages 12–17 in Iowa needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2002, 19 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.4 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, 4 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Iowa, a 100% increase from 2 in 2001.<sup>38</sup>

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- In 2004, 18,872 children younger than 18 were arrested in Iowa, a 10.9% decrease from 21,176 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 668 were for a violent crime and 85 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>39</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,105 children in juvenile correction facilities in Iowa.<sup>40</sup>

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

- In 2002, Iowa spent \$317,371,621 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, 44.5% was from federal funds, and 55.5% was from state funds.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$141,224,971 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 33.5% was from Medicaid, 12.2% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 16.3% was from TANF, 2.2% came from Supplemental Security Income, and 0.5% came from other federal sources.<sup>42</sup>
- Out of 5,011 children in out-of-home care in Iowa on September 30, 2003, only 1,417 children, or 28.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>43</sup>

### IOWA'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>

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