

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN 2006

New Hampshire's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	1,299,500
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	304,994
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	5.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	7.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	7.0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 17,437 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 6,878 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 1,043 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New Hampshire, a rate of 3.4 per 1,000 children, representing an 8.4% increase from 2002. Of these children, 62.9% were neglected, 19.4% were physically abused, and 20.8% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 3 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New Hampshire.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 1,217 children in New Hampshire lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,291 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 23.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all New Hampshire children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 82.9% were white, 3.9% were black, 5% were Hispanic, 0.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.7% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 613 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 50.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 131 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Hampshire, a 14.9% increase from 114 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 1,217 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 176 or 14.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 3,992 New Hampshire grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 1,217 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 12.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all New Hampshire children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 85.3% were white, 3.2% were black, 7.1% were Hispanic, and 4.5% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Hampshire increased from 14,203 in March 2004 to 14,333 in March 2005, an increase of 0.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 6,209, a 1.6% increase from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in New Hampshire was at 50.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, New Hampshire spent \$60,054,119 in TANF funds, including 57.3% on basic assistance and 42.7% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, New Hampshire collected and distributed \$79,608,466 in child support funds, an increase of 0.1% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New Hampshire was \$873 per month, or 105.9% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 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 6,600 of New Hampshire's children received subsidized child care; 7,300 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 7,000 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Hampshire, a family of three could make no more than \$28,784, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, New Hampshire had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 1,632 New Hampshire children, the same as in 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, 66,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 61.3% of the total number of enrollees in New Hampshire.²⁶
- In 2001, 2,605 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 3.9% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in New Hampshire.²⁷
- New Hampshire spent \$11,568 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, New Hampshire had 10,951 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.7% increase from 2003, when 9,893 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New Hampshire was 7.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 35.9 births. This reflects a total rate of 18.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 985 adults and adolescents, as well as 10 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in New Hampshire.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 13,000 children ages 12–17, and 104,000 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, 7% of New Hampshire teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 22.2% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2004, 4% 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 7,000 children ages 12–17 in New Hampshire needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 8,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 12 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.51 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 2001 and 2002, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New Hampshire.³⁸

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- In 2004, 7,812 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Hampshire, an 18.8% increase from 6,575 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 84 were for a violent crime and 13 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 203 children in juvenile correction facilities in New Hampshire.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, New Hampshire spent \$58,082,783 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, 47.6% was from federal funds, 39.6% was from state funds, and 12.8% was from local funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$27,627,924 in federal funds received for child welfare, 24.5% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6.6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 48% was from Medicaid, 9.9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 5.3% was from TANF, 1.9% came from Supplemental Security Income, 1.6% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 2.3% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 1,217 children in out-of-home care in New Hampshire on September 30, 2003, only 556 children, or 45.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

NEW HAMPSHIRE'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 New Hampshire was \$26,978 ; the median income for a family of four in New Hampshire was \$72,369.⁴⁷

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