

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

Ohio's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	11,459,011
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	2,779,212
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	11.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	17.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	14.3

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

- In 2003, 47,444 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Ohio, a rate of 16.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.4% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 53.6% were neglected, 22.9% were physically abused, and 15.5% were sexually abused.⁶
- In 2003, 68 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Ohio.⁷
- On September 30, 2003, 19,323 children in Ohio lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,038 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 30.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.3% were 16 or older.⁸
- Of all Ohio children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 48.3% were white, 44.3% were black, 2.7% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.5% were of other races and ethnicities.⁹

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 14,437 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 63.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁰
- In 2003, 2,420 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Ohio, a 1% increase from 2,396 in 2002.¹¹
- Of the 19,323 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 5,213 or 27% were waiting to be adopted.¹²

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

- In 2004, approximately 84,196 Ohio grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹³
- Of the 19,323 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 16.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁴
- Of all Ohio children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 42.7% were white, 50.8% were black, 2.9% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.6% were other races.¹⁵

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 Ohio decreased from 186,937 in March 2004 to 180,165 in March 2005, a decrease of 3.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 82,897, a 2.3% decrease from March 2004.¹⁶
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Ohio was at 40.3% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁷
- In 2004, Ohio spent \$833,955,342 in TANF funds, including 38.4% on basic assistance and 61% on nonassistance.¹⁸
- In 2004, Ohio collected and distributed \$1,636,418,913 in child support funds, an increase of 4.5% from 2003.¹⁹

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- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio was \$628 per month, or 92.4% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour.²⁰

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 55,600 of Ohio's children received subsidized child care; 52,100 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 86,800 in 2002.²¹
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Ohio, a family of three could make no more than \$23,505, which is equivalent to 44% of the state's median income.²²
- In 2005, Ohio had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²³
- In 2004, Head Start served 38,029 Ohio children, the same as in 2003.²⁴

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, 902,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.3% of the total number of enrollees in Ohio.²⁵
- In 2001, 40,533 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 4.5% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio.²⁶
- Ohio spent \$2,262 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, Ohio had 220,190 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.9% increase from 2003, when 207,854 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Ohio was 20.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68.1 births. This reflects a total rate of 39.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁹
- As of December 2003, 13,373 adults and adolescents, as well as 129 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Ohio.³⁰
- In 2003, an estimated 89,000 children ages 12–17, and 810,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

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

- In 2004, 6% of Ohio teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 40% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2004, 8% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³
- In 2003, an estimated 52,000 children ages 12–17 in Ohio needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 55,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2002, 66 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.09 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁶

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, 23 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Ohio, a 4% decrease from 24 in 2001.³⁷
- In 2004, 47,954 children younger than 18 were arrested in Ohio, a 7% increase from 44,836 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 1,311 were for a violent crime and 575 were for possession of a weapon.³⁸

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- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,554 children in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio.³⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Ohio spent \$860,302,907 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, 50% was from federal funds, 11.9% was from state funds, and 38.2% was from local funds.⁴⁰
- In 2002, of the \$429,794,881 in federal funds received for child welfare, 88.2% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.3% was from Medicaid, 1.6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 5.7% was from TANF, and 0.4% came from other federal sources.⁴¹
- Out of 19,323 children in out-of-home care in Ohio on September 30, 2003, only 11,907 children, or 61.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴²

OHIO'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.⁴³
- 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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Ohio was \$33,575 ; the median income for a family of four in Ohio was \$63,934.⁴⁶

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