

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

Oklahoma's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	3,523,553
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	859,870
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	10.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	14.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	14.6

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

- In 2003, there were 57,676 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 36,641 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 12,529 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oklahoma, a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 children, representing an 8.7% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 86.5% were neglected, 18.8% were physically abused, and 7.4% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 29 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 9,194 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,812 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 38.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.9% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Oklahoma children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 46.4% were white, 16.9% were black, 8.8% were Hispanic, 12.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 15.2% 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 5,709 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 63.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 1,152 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oklahoma, a 13.9% increase from 1,011 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 9,194 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 2,590 or 28.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

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

- In 2004, approximately 41,021 Oklahoma grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 9,194 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 28.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Oklahoma children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 45.6% were white, 21.2% were black, 8.9% were Hispanic, 9.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 14.4% 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 Oklahoma decreased from 33,284 in March 2004 to 26,448 in March 2005, a decrease of 20.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 11,630, a 16.2% decrease from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oklahoma was at 30.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Oklahoma spent \$194,597,138 in TANF funds, including 21.8% on basic assistance, 36.1% on child care, 14% on transportation, and 20.4% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Oklahoma collected and distributed \$154,022,936 in child support funds, an increase of 8.1% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oklahoma was \$541 per month, or 65.7% 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 21,800 of Oklahoma's children received subsidized child care; 21,300 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 34,500 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$29,100, which is equivalent to 67% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Oklahoma had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 13,474 Oklahoma 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, 438,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 64.7% of the total number of enrollees in Oklahoma.²⁶
- In 2001, 6,387 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 1.5% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma.²⁷
- Oklahoma spent \$6,211 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Oklahoma had 100,761 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 9.6% increase from 2003, when 91,914 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Oklahoma was 28.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 94.8 births. This reflects a total rate of 55.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 4,414 adults and adolescents, as well as 27 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 219,000 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, 6% of Oklahoma teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 57.1% 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 15,000 children ages 12–17 in Oklahoma needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 35 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.54 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, 7 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oklahoma, a 16.7% increase from 6 in 2001.³⁸

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- In 2004, 23,128 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma, a 6.3% decrease from 24,678 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 736 were for a violent crime and 307 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 870 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Oklahoma spent \$195,095,580 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, 64.2% was from federal funds, and 35.8% was from state funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$125,228,618 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37.9% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 23.2% was from Medicaid, 16.9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 10.4% was from TANF, 3% came from Supplemental Security Income, and 3.6% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 9,194 children in out-of-home care in Oklahoma on September 30, 2003, only 4,129 children, or 44.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

OKLAHOMA'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 Oklahoma was \$27,600 ; the median income for a family of four in Oklahoma was \$51,377.⁴⁷

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