

CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN 2007

California's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	36,132,147
Population, Children Under 18 ²	9,701,862
State Poverty Rate ³	13.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	18.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	17.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.6

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, California had 355,239 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 234,718 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 98,201 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in California, a rate of 10.2 per 1,000 children. Of these children, 67.8% were neglected, 13.9% were physically abused, and 8.1% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 140 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in California.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 92,344 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 97,261 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 27.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.7% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 24.4% were white, 27.7% were black, 41.3% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.7% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 43,170 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 60.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 7,754 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California, a 4.1% increase from 7,433 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 92,344 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 4,905 or 5.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 269,496 California grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 92,344 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 33.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all California children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 20.8% were white, 32.6% were black, 40.7% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.1% were of other races.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California decreased from 1,092,422 in March 2005 to 1,055,250 in March 2006, a decrease of 3.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 451,961, a 3.1% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in California was at 70.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, California spent \$6,177,940,510 in TANF funds, including 53.2% on basic assistance, 2.7% on child care, 1.8% on transportation, and 36.5% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, California collected and distributed \$2,222,045,042 in child support funds, an increase of 2.0% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,149 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$22.09 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, California had an estimated monthly average of 162,600 children served by subsidized child care; 160,100 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 153,600 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, California had 280,000 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 98,432 California children, a 0.5% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 3,652,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in California, representing 39.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 143,169 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in California, representing 4.3% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, California spent \$4,019,360 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$2,807 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- California reported spending \$18,531,412.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- California reported spending \$179,508,782.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³¹

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- In 2005, California had 1,223,475 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 18.1% increase from 2004, when 1,035,752 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2003, 35,628 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving California a ranking of 50 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2003, 2,820 infants younger than 1 year died in California, giving the state a ranking of 50 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in California was 21.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 67.9. This reflects a total rate of 39.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2004, 134,573 adults and adolescents, as well as 648 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in California.³⁶
- In 2004, an estimated 296,000 children age 12–17, and 1,568,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in California.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 4535 children aged-out of out-of-home care in California.³⁸
- In 2004, 123,000 California teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2004, 8% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 167,000 children age 12–17 in California needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, approximately 188,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2003, 144 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.37 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 151 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, a 4% decrease from 157 in 2002.⁴⁴
- In 2005, 217,158 children younger than 18 were arrested in California, a 6.1% increase from 204,602 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 15,266 were for violent crimes and 9,146 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 16,782 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.⁴⁶

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FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, California spent \$4,328,207,000 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁷ Of this amount, 43% was from federal funds, 33% was from state funds, and 24% was from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2004, of the \$1,858,513,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 71% 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, 10% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Of 92,344 children in out-of-home care in California on September 30, 2004, only 54,532, or 59.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

CALIFORNIA'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.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; 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.⁵³

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