

COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2007

Colorado's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	4,665,177
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,180,525
State Poverty Rate ³	11.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.2
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	17.2

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Colorado had 120,518 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,540 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 9,578 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Colorado, a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 children, and representing a 17.7% increase from 2003. Of these children, 53.8% were neglected, 19.0% were physically abused, and 10.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 35 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Colorado.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 8,196 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,754 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 25.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 50.3% were white, 11.7% were black, 32.9% were Hispanic, 1.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.9% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,577 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 70.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 958 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 6.9% decrease from 1,024 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 8,196 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,703 or 20.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 30,233 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 8,196 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 14.0% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Colorado children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 50.4% were white, 11.0% were black, 35.1% were Hispanic, 0.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.9% 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 Colorado increased from 38,060 in March 2005 to 39,195 in March 2006, an increase of 2.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 15,131, a 5.1% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Colorado was at 42.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Colorado spent \$211,832,482 in TANF funds, including 30.9% on basic assistance, 1.2% on transportation, and 67.9% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Colorado collected and distributed \$236,265,381 in child support funds, an increase of 8.8% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Colorado was \$832 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.01 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Colorado had an estimated monthly average of 19,100 children served by subsidized child care; 20,600 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 22,800 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Colorado, a family of three could make no more than \$28,560, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Colorado had at county level children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 9,820 Colorado children, the same as in 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 23,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado, representing 5.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 16,878 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado, representing 7.7% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Colorado spent \$144,300,926 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$8,550 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- In 2005, Colorado had 59,530 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.0% increase from 2004, when 57,244 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2003, 6,224 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Colorado a ranking of 33 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³¹

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- In 2003, 420 infants younger than 1 year died in Colorado, giving the state a ranking of 27 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Colorado was 25.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 73. This reflects a total rate of 43.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³³
- Cumulative through 2004, 8,110 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.³⁴
- In 2004, an estimated 36,000 children age 12–17, and 250,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Colorado.³⁵

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 399 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Colorado.³⁶
- In 2004, 18,000 Colorado teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁷
- In 2004, 9% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁸
- In 2004, approximately 19,000 children age 12–17 in Colorado needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 25,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2003, 30 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.33 per 100,000 children.⁴¹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, seven children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Colorado, compared with eight in 2002.⁴²
- In 2005, 46,030 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 6.1% increase from 43,373 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 1,059 were for violent crimes and 740 were for possession of a weapon.⁴³
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,776 children in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.⁴⁴

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Colorado spent \$451,511,097 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁵ Of this amount, 34% was from federal funds, 54% was from state funds, and 12% was from local funds.⁴⁶

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- In 2004, of the \$151,791,868 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% 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, 22% was from Medicaid, 23% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁷
- Out of 8,196 children in out-of-home care in Colorado on September 30, 2004, only 2,972, or 36.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

COLORADO'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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

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