

# CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2007

## Connecticut's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	3,510,297
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	835,006
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	11.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	10.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	13.6

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, 13,285 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 15.8 per 1,000 children, and representing an 8.4% increase from 2003. Of these children, 70.4% were neglected, 10.4% were physically abused, and 4.7% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, nine children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Connecticut.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 6,803 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,742 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 24.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.2% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 33.4% were white, 31.7% were black, 29.5% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,119 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 76.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2004, 349 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 2.0% increase from 342 in 2003.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 6,803 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,481 or 21.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 16,206 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 6,803 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 18.5% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 31.2% were white, 33.8% were black, 29.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.8% were of other races.<sup>16</sup>

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## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut decreased from 40,094 in March 2005 to 36,520 in March 2006, a decrease of 9.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 18,236 , a 9.1% decrease from March 2005.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was at 46.1% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Connecticut spent \$434,876,878 in TANF funds, including 29.0% on basic assistance, 0.3% on child care, 3.0% on transportation, and 67.2% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2005, Connecticut collected and distributed \$235,391,292 in child support funds, an increase of 3.9% from 2004.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$1,004 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$19.30 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>21</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Connecticut had an estimated monthly average of 9,600 children served by subsidized child care; 10,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 11,700 in 2003.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$36,120, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, Connecticut had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 7,126 Connecticut children, a 0.3% decrease from 2004.<sup>25</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 258700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut, representing 54.0% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 8,858 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut, representing 3.6% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, Connecticut spent \$13,114,767 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$1,481 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>28</sup>
- Connecticut reported spending \$14,513.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>29</sup>
- Connecticut reported spending \$3,031.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>

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- In 2005, Connecticut had 22,289 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.0% increase from 2004, when 21,438 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, 3,218 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Connecticut a ranking of 20 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>
- In 2003, 230 infants younger than 1 year died in Connecticut, giving the state a ranking of 18 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Connecticut was 12.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 42.4. This reflects a total rate of 24.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 13,711 adults and adolescents, as well as 179 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 28,000 children age 12–17, and 165,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut.<sup>36</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 34 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Connecticut.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2004, 7,000 Connecticut teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 8% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 15,000 children age 12–17 in Connecticut needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 18,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2003, seven children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 0.75 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, four children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, compared with six in 2002.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 20,811 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 5.8% increase from 19,671 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 1,071 were for violent crimes and 444 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 627 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.<sup>45</sup>

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## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Connecticut spent \$348,824,308 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>46</sup> Of this amount, 70% was from federal funds, and 30% was from state funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$245,436,600 in federal funds received for child welfare, 39% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 5% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 51% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 6,803 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut on September 30, 2004, only 5,466, or 80.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## CONNECTICUT'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.<sup>50</sup>
- 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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Connecticut was \$51,437; the median income for a family of four was \$86,001.<sup>53</sup>

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