

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2007

Delaware's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	843,524
Population, Children Under 18 ²	195,879
State Poverty Rate ³	9.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	17.6

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Delaware had 6,901 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,276 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 1,581 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 children, and representing a 27.9% increase from 2003. Of these children, 29.4% were neglected, 26.2% were physically abused, and 13.2% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, one child died as a result of abuse or neglect in Delaware.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 849 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 814 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 27.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 35.5% were white, 56.9% were black, 7.3% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.2% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 749 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 76.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 73 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 38.4% decrease from 101 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 849 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 218 or 25.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 7,241 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 849 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 8.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Delaware children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 45.2% were white, 50.7% were black, and 4.1% were Hispanic.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware decreased from 12,296 in March 2005 to 11,980 in March 2006, a decrease of 2.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 5,434, a 1.8% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Delaware was at 35.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Delaware spent \$53,520,701 in TANF funds, including 38.2% on basic assistance, 8.3% on child care, 14.9% on transportation, and 38.7% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Delaware collected and distributed \$66,481,676 in child support funds, an increase of 4.5% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$856 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.46 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Delaware had an estimated monthly average of 6,900 children served by subsidized child care; 6,400 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 6,800 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Delaware, a family of three could make no more than \$32,184, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Delaware had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,197 Delaware children, the same as in 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 66,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware, representing 44.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 1,934 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware, representing 3.1% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Delaware spent \$16,580,621 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$8,573 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Delaware reported spending \$627.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Delaware had 10,354 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.0% increase from 2004, when 10,250 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 1,068 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Delaware a ranking of 9 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2003, 107 infants younger than 1 year died in Delaware, giving the state a ranking of 10 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Delaware was 25.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70. This reflects a total rate of 43.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 3,277 adults and adolescents, as well as 25 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Delaware.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 5,000 children age 12–17, and 35,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Delaware.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 63 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Delaware.³⁷
- In 2004, 3,000 Delaware teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 7% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 3,000 children age 12–17 in Delaware needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 3,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, seven children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.23 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, compared with one in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 7,449 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 10.1% increase from 6,767 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 517 were for violent crimes and 137 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 333 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Delaware spent \$49,474,343 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁶ Of this amount, 33% was from federal funds, and 67% was from state funds.⁴⁷

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- In 2004, of the \$16,166,047 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 15% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 16% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 849 children in out-of-home care in Delaware on September 30, 2004, only 250, or 29.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

DELAWARE'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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

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