

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN 2007

Florida's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	17,789,864
Population, Children Under 18 ²	4,067,877
State Poverty Rate ³	11.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17.9
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	16.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	20.5

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Florida had 201,349 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 145,393 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 129,914 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 32.5 per 1,000 children, and representing a 6.2% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 29.8% were neglected, 13.2% were physically abused, and 4.1% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 86 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Florida.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 28,864 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 30,677 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 41.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 47.0% were white, 40.7% were black, 9.3% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.7% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 21,097 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 73.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 3,264 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a 14.6% increase from 2,786 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 28,864 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 7,705 or 26.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 154,029 Florida grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 28,864 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 43.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Florida children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 48.5% were white, 40.4% were black, 8.5% were Hispanic, 0.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.3% 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 Florida decreased from 104,503 in March 2005 to 84,309 in March 2006, a decrease of 24.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 51,835, a 15.3% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Florida was at 32.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Florida spent \$877,065,735 in TANF funds, including 27.3% on basic assistance, 1.8% on child care, 0.1% on transportation, and 69.5% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Florida collected and distributed \$1,076,686,438 in child support funds, an increase of 9.6% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$816 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$15.68 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Florida had an estimated monthly average of 116,300 children served by subsidized child care; 105,200 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 121,200 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than \$24,900, which is equivalent to 51% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Florida had 53,965 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 35,530 Florida children, a 0.1% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 1,375,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Florida, representing 51.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 40,545 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Florida, representing 3.3% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Florida spent \$135,779,718 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,349 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Florida reported spending \$9,392,788.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Florida had 384,801 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 8.3% decrease from 2004, when 419,707 children were enrolled.³¹

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- In 2003, 18,007 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Florida a ranking of 47 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2003, 1,583 infants younger than 1 year died in Florida, giving the state a ranking of 48 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 Florida was 22.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 73.8. This reflects a total rate of 42.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 95,208 adults and adolescents, as well as 1,504 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Florida.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 115,000 children age 12–17, and 784,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Florida.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 1332 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Florida.³⁷
- In 2004, 70,000 Florida teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 9% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 64,000 children age 12–17 in Florida needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 74,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, 62 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.42 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 37 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Florida, a 14% decrease from 43 in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 120,082 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida, a 0.9% decrease from 121,143 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 8,660 were for violent crimes and 2,766 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 8,208 children in juvenile correction facilities in Florida.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Florida spent \$896,972,828 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, 54% was from federal funds, 45% was from state funds, and 1% was from local funds.⁴⁷

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- In 2004, of the \$485,593,314 in federal funds received for child welfare, 36% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 18% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 34% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 28,864 children in out-of-home care in Florida on September 30, 2004, only 8,277, or 28.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

FLORIDA'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
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Florida was \$32,000; the median income for a family of four was \$58,605.⁵³

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