

# IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2007

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## Idaho's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	1,429,096
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	374,180
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	17.7
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	15.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	21.2

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Idaho had 14,585 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,502 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 1,856 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 21.5% increase from 2003. Of these children, 69.7% were neglected, 18.9% were physically abused, and 6.3% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, four children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Idaho.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 1,565 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,401 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 36.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.6% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 73.1% were white, 1.7% were black, 14.4% were Hispanic, 8.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.7% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,337 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 79.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 176 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 21.6% increase from 138 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,565 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 317 or 20.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 10,245 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 1,565 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 15.6% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 75.0% were white, 0.4% were black, 12.3% were Hispanic, 10.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.0% were of other races.<sup>17</sup>

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# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho decreased from 3,446 in March 2005 to 3,126 in March 2006, a decrease of 10.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 1,848 , a 3.8% decrease from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Idaho was at 37.8% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, Idaho spent \$41,469,678 in TANF funds, including 17.4% on basic assistance, 0.1% on transportation, and 82.5% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, Idaho collected and distributed \$115,542,878 in child support funds, an increase of 4.2% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$603 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.60 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Idaho had an estimated monthly average of 10,600 children served by subsidized child care; 10,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 7,800 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Idaho, a family of three could make no more than \$20,472, which is equivalent to 46% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Idaho had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,640 Idaho children, a 10.7% decrease from 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 126,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho, representing 64.7% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 1,973 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho, representing 1.8% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, Idaho spent \$5,924,151 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,003 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- Idaho reported spending \$112,206.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- Idaho reported spending \$1,209,236.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, Idaho had 21,830 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 14.6% increase from 2004, when 19,054 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 1,413 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Idaho a ranking of 11 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, 138 infants younger than 1 year died in Idaho, giving the state a ranking of 12 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Idaho was 16.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70.5. This reflects a total rate of 38.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 558 adults and adolescents, as well as two children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Idaho.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 13,000 children age 12–17, and 57,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Idaho.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 77 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Idaho.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 5,000 Idaho teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, 7% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 6,000 children age 12–17 in Idaho needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 9,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2003, 18 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.31 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, compared with none in 2002.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2005, 9,864 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 36.6% decrease from 15,567 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 170 were for violent crimes and 120 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 489 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IDAHO'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Idaho spent \$59,274,405 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>47</sup> Of this amount, 62% was from federal funds, and 38% was from state funds.<sup>48</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$36,971,405 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 29% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 27% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 1,565 children in out-of-home care in Idaho on September 30, 2004, only 864, or 55.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## IDAHO'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>51</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>52</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>53</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Idaho was \$31,720; the median income for a family of four was \$53,376.<sup>54</sup>

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