

# KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2007

## Kentucky's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	4,173,405
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	980,160
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	14.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	22.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	20.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	25.3

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Kentucky had 52,092 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 46,951 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 19,186 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kentucky, a rate of 19.6 per 1,000 children, and representing a 5.5% increase from 2003. Of these children, 82.8% were neglected, 14.9% were physically abused, and 4.8% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, 38 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kentucky.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 7,000 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,895 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 28.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.7% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 74.1% were white, 18.3% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.9% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,095 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 68.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 805 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kentucky, a 24.0% increase from 612 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 7,000 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,974 or 28.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 44,172 Kentucky grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 7,000 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 9.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Kentucky children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 78.7% were white, 15.7% were black, 0.2% were Hispanic, and 5.5% were of other races.<sup>17</sup>

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## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kentucky decreased from 75,375 in March 2005 to 70,083 in March 2006, a decrease of 7.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 33,150, a 5.2% decrease from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kentucky was at 33.6% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, Kentucky spent \$196,429,589 in TANF funds, including 54.0% on basic assistance, 7.0% on child care, 2.4% on transportation, and 36.7% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, Kentucky collected and distributed \$336,566,029 in child support funds, an increase of 4.5% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kentucky was \$537 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.33 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Kentucky had an estimated monthly average of 36,500 children served by subsidized child care; 34,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 39,900 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky, a family of three could make no more than \$24,135, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Kentucky had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 16,071 Kentucky children, the same as in 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 395,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky, representing 50.3% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 8,761 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky, representing 2.3% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, Kentucky spent \$71,165,325 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$8,123 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- Kentucky reported spending \$1,109,980.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2005, Kentucky had 63,728 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 32.6% decrease from 2004, when 94,500 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, 4,809 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Kentucky a ranking of 26 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 381 infants younger than 1 year died in Kentucky, giving the state a ranking of 24 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 Kentucky was 23.9 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 86.6. This reflects a total rate of 49.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 4,212 adults and adolescents, as well as 29 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 27,000 children age 12–17, and 178,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kentucky.<sup>36</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 472 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Kentucky.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2004, 20,000 Kentucky teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 11% 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 16,000 children age 12–17 in Kentucky 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, 24 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.18 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kentucky, compared with five in 2002.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 13,857 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky, a 77.0% increase from 7,829 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 595 were for violent crimes and 154 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 837 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky.<sup>45</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Kentucky spent \$367,994,212 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, 36% was from federal funds, and 64% was from state funds.<sup>47</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$133,189,846 in federal funds received for child welfare, 51% 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, 12% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 23% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 7,000 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky on September 30, 2004, only 3,662, or 52.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## KENTUCKY'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 Kentucky was \$30,232; the median income for a family of four i was \$53,198.<sup>53</sup>

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