

MAINE'S CHILDREN 2007

Maine's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	1,321,505
Population, Children Under 18 ²	277,336
State Poverty Rate ³	12.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	14.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	21.6

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Maine had 17,167 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,358 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 4,235 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maine, a rate of 15.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 10.3% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 70.7% were neglected, 26.9% were physically abused, and 12.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Maine.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 2,584 children in Maine lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,999 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 27.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 82.8% were white, 1.7% were black, 2.9% were Hispanic, 1.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.5% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 967 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 49.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 307 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maine, a 31.6% decrease from 404 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 2,584 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 850 or 32.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 5,192 Maine grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,584 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 14.9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Maine children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 83.7% were white, 1.0% were black, 3.1% were Hispanic, 1.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 10.9% 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 Maine decreased from 25,696 in March 2005 to 24,619 in March 2006, a decrease of 4.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 9,131, a 5.7% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maine was at 43.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Maine spent \$102,409,452 in TANF funds, including 74.8% on basic assistance, 5.2% on child care, 3.9% on transportation, and 16.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Maine collected and distributed \$100,777,100 in child support funds, an increase of 1.2% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maine was \$692 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$13.31 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Maine had an estimated monthly average of 4,600 children served by subsidized child care; 4,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 4,500 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maine, a family of three could make no more than \$42,552, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Maine had 2,010 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 3,955 Maine children, a 0.6% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 100,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maine, representing 28.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 3,365 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Maine, representing 3.5% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Maine spent \$65,307,764 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$19,408 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Maine reported spending \$8,769,510.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Maine had 30,654 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.1% increase from 2004, when 29,171 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 904 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maine a ranking of 8 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2003, 68 infants younger than 1 year died in Maine, giving the state a ranking of 5 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 Maine was 10.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 44.4. This reflects a total rate of 24.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 1,047 adults and adolescents, as well as nine children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maine.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 11,000 children age 12–17, and 65,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maine.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 196 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Maine.³⁷
- In 2004, 3,000 Maine 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 6,000 children age 12–17 in Maine needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 7,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, 10 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.09 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maine, just as in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 7,112 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maine, a 17.1% decrease from 8,580 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 109 were for violent crimes and 44 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 222 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maine.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MAINE'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Maine spent \$41,723,996 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, 64% was from federal funds, and 36% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$26,709,622 in federal funds received for child welfare, 89% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, and 11% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.⁴⁸

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- Out of 2,584 children in out-of-home care in Maine on September 30, 2004, only 893 , or 34.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

MAINE'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 Maine was \$28,831; the median income for a family of four was \$59,596.⁵³

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