

# MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2007

## Maryland's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	5,600,388
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,402,961
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	10.8
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	9.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	11.9

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, 15,180 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maryland, a rate of 10.9 per 1,000 children, and representing a 9.0% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 59.2% were neglected, 30.4% were physically abused, and 12.4% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 28 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Maryland.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 11,111 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,521 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 22.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.3% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 20.8% were white, 74.5% were black, 1.6% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.9% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,265 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 57.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2004, 914 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maryland, a 19.6% increase from 734 in 2003.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 11,111 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 2,320 or 20.9% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 44,124 Maryland grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 11,111 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 32.5% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Maryland children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 11.9% were white, 85.2% were black, 0.6% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.2% were of other races.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maryland decreased from 53,008 in March 2005 to 46,207 in March 2006, a decrease of 14.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 20,164, a 14.5% decrease from March 2005.<sup>17</sup>

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- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maryland was at 41.5% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Maryland spent \$349,568,878 in TANF funds, including 31.4% on basic assistance, and 68.6% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2005, Maryland collected and distributed \$453,401,914 in child support funds, an increase of 6.0% from 2004.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland was \$1,020 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$19.62 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>21</sup>

## C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2005, Maryland had an estimated monthly average of 20,500 children served by subsidized child care; 24,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 30,000 in 2003.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland, a family of three could make no more than \$29,990, which is equivalent to 43% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, Maryland had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 10,347 Maryland children, the same as in 2004.<sup>25</sup>

## H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2002, 432,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland, representing 57.5% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 16,367 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland, representing 4.1% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, Maryland spent \$86,726,340 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$5,299 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>28</sup>
- Maryland reported spending \$350,258.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>29</sup>
- Maryland reported spending \$10,101,154.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2005, Maryland had 120,316 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.9% increase from 2004, when 111,488 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, 6,782 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maryland a ranking of 36 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>
- In 2003, 617 infants younger than 1 year died in Maryland, giving the state a ranking of 36 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Maryland was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 54.9. This reflects a total rate of 32.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 27,236 adults and adolescents, as well as 314 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 37,000 children age 12–17, and 248,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maryland.<sup>36</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 361 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Maryland.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2004, 21,000 Maryland teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>38</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>39</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 22,000 children age 12–17 in Maryland needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 24,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2003, 30 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.95 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 31 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maryland, an 18% decrease from 38 in 2002.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 49,297 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland, a 5.5% decrease from 52,191 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 3,187 were for violent crimes and 1,646 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,167 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland.<sup>45</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Maryland spent \$438,887,488 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, 33% was from federal funds, 63% was from state funds, and 3% was from local funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$146,582,795 in federal funds received for child welfare, 71% 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, 21% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>48</sup>

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- Out of 11,111 children in out-of-home care in Maryland on September 30, 2004, only 3,876 , or 34.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## MARYLAND'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>

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