

MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN 2007

Minnesota's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	5,132,799
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,229,578
State Poverty Rate ³	8.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	13.9

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Minnesota had 46,272 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,471 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 8,183 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Minnesota, a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 children, and representing a 11.3% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 75.4% were neglected, 17.9% were physically abused, and 10.4% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, 10 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Minnesota.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 7,038 children in Minnesota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,338 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 24.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 49.9% were white, 21.1% were black, 7.1% were Hispanic, 10.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.0% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,718 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 72.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 603 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Minnesota, a 6.8% decrease from 644 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 7,038 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,487 or 21.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 20,055 Minnesota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,038 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 21.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Minnesota children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 38.6% were white, 28.3% were black, 6.7% were Hispanic, 13.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 13.4% 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 Minnesota decreased from 73,880 in March 2005 to 67,469 in March 2006, a decrease of 9.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 27,738, a 5.6% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Minnesota was at 43.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Minnesota spent \$401,785,903 in TANF funds, including 41.7% on basic assistance, and 58.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Minnesota collected and distributed \$568,967,573 in child support funds, an increase of 0.3% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota was \$761 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$14.64 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Minnesota had an estimated monthly average of 25,500 children served by subsidized child care; 22,100 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 25,700 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Minnesota, a family of three could make no more than \$28,158, which is equivalent to 44% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Minnesota had 4,876 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 10,332 Minnesota children, a 0.1% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 343,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota, representing 50.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 9,065 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota, representing 2.8% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Minnesota spent \$56,441,343 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$6,226 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Minnesota reported spending \$23,306,347.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Minnesota had 5,076 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.1% increase from 2004, when 4,784 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 4,374 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Minnesota a ranking of 24 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2003, 324 infants younger than 1 year died in Minnesota, giving the state a ranking of 22 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 Minnesota was 13.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 45.5. This reflects a total rate of 26.7 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 4,388 adults and adolescents, as well as 27 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 42,000 children age 12–17, and 250,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Minnesota.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 624 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Minnesota.³⁷
- In 2004, 13,000 Minnesota teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 6% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 21,000 children age 12–17 in Minnesota needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 28,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, 45 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.21 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, five children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Minnesota, compared with three in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 46,818 children younger than 18 were arrested in Minnesota, a 51.5% increase from 30,905 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 1,279 were for violent crimes and 780 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,527 children in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Minnesota spent \$563,624,754 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, 39% was from federal funds, 15% was from state funds, and 47% was from local funds.⁴⁷

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- In 2004, of the \$217,452,533 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 25% was from Medicaid, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 20% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 7,038 children in out-of-home care in Minnesota on September 30, 2004, only 1,524, or 21.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

MINNESOTA'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 Minnesota was \$29,268; the median income for a family of four was \$76,733.⁵³

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