

MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2007

Montana's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	935,670
Population, Children Under 18 ²	204,994
State Poverty Rate ³	13.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	19.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	20.2

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Montana had 13,431 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 7,450 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 1,753 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Montana, a rate of 8.4 per 1,000 children, and representing a 10.1% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 69.4% were neglected, 12.6% were physically abused, and 8.7% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, two children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Montana.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 2,030 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,866 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 36.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 52.4% were white, 1.1% were black, 5.7% were Hispanic, 33.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.0% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 992 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 57.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 192 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, a 16.7% decrease from 224 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 2,030 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 734 or 36.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 6,794 Montana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,030 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 34.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Montana children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 52.2% were white, 0.9% were black, 5.3% were Hispanic, 34.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.8% 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 Montana decreased from 12,894 in March 2005 to 10,370 in March 2006, a decrease of 24.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 3,982, a 22.1% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Montana was at 49.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Montana spent \$44,888,266 in TANF funds, including 46.7% on basic assistance, 4.2% on child care, and 45.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Montana collected and distributed \$46,807,100 in child support funds, an increase of 4.0% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Montana was \$571 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.98 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Montana had an estimated monthly average of 5,200 children served by subsidized child care; 5,100 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 5,200 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, a family of three could make no more than \$24,132, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Montana had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,939 Montana children, a 0.2% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 56,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana, representing 53.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 3,947 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana, representing 7.2% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Montana spent \$27,721,972 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,024 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Montana reported spending \$124,667.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Montana had 15,841 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.7% increase from 2004, when 15,281 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 776 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Montana a ranking of 6 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2003, 78 infants younger than 1 year died in Montana, giving the state a ranking of 8 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 Montana was 17.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60.9. This reflects a total rate of 35.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 350 adults and adolescents, as well as three children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 11,000 children age 12–17, and 47,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Montana.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 92 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Montana.³⁷
- In 2004, 5,000 Montana teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 12% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 5,000 children age 12–17 in Montana 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, 14 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.76 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, four children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Montana, compared with two in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 6,493 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana. Of these, 111 were for violent crimes, and 41 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 261 children in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Montana spent \$46,020,588 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, 52% was from federal funds, and 48% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$23,864,816 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% 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, 7% was from Medicaid, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸

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- Out of 2,030 children in out-of-home care in Montana on September 30, 2004, only 693, or 34.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

MONTANA'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 Montana was \$31,085; the median income for a family of four was \$49,124.⁵³

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