

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN 2007

New Hampshire's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	1,309,940
Population, Children Under 18 ²	303,151
State Poverty Rate ³	5.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	9.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	7.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	12.7

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, New Hampshire had 16,778 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,400 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 948 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New Hampshire, a rate of 3.1 per 1,000 children, and representing a 9.1% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 63.8% were neglected, 21.3% were physically abused, and 18.6% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New Hampshire.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 1,236 children in New Hampshire lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,217 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 23.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 81.8% were white, 4.0% were black, 5.3% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.7% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 523 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 56.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 102 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Hampshire, a 28.4% decrease from 131 in 2003.¹³
- Of the 1,236 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 244 or 19.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 5,402 New Hampshire grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,236 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 13.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all New Hampshire children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 81.8% were white, 4.8% were black, 6.7% were Hispanic, and 6.7% 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 New Hampshire decreased from 14,333 in March 2005 to 13,858 in March 2006, a decrease of 3.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 6,157 , a 0.8% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in New Hampshire was at 50.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, New Hampshire spent \$60,054,119 in TANF funds, including 57.3% on basic assistance, and 42.7% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, New Hampshire collected and distributed \$80,794,583 in child support funds, an increase of 1.5% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New Hampshire was \$914 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$17.58 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, New Hampshire had an estimated monthly average of 7,100 children served by subsidized child care; 6,600 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 7,300 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Hampshire, a family of three could make no more than \$30,576, which is equivalent to 46% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, New Hampshire had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 1,632 New Hampshire children, the same number as in 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 71,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Hampshire, representing 62.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 2,605 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in New Hampshire, representing 3.9% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, New Hampshire spent \$30,134,052 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$11,568 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- New Hampshire reported spending \$317,861.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, New Hampshire had 11,892 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 8.4% increase from 2004, when 10,969 children were enrolled.³¹

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- In 2003, 895 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving New Hampshire a ranking of 7 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2003, 57 infants younger than 1 year died in New Hampshire, giving the state a ranking of 3 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 New Hampshire was 7.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 34.4. This reflects a total rate of 18.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 987 adults and adolescents, as well as 10 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in New Hampshire.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 11,000 children age 12–17, and 62,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Hampshire.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 60 children aged-out of out-of-home care in New Hampshire.³⁷
- In 2004, 5,000 New Hampshire teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 4% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 7,000 children age 12–17 in New Hampshire 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, nine children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.63 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New Hampshire; the same as in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 8,417 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Hampshire, a 7.7% increase from 7,812 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 96 were for violent crimes and 33 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 198 children in juvenile correction facilities in New Hampshire.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, New Hampshire spent \$88,587,041 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, 42% was from federal funds, 46% was from state funds, and 12% was from local funds.⁴⁷

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- In 2004, of the \$36,766,930 in federal funds received for child welfare, 48% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 35% was from Medicaid, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 6% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 1,236 children in out-of-home care in New Hampshire on September 30, 2004, only 613, or 49.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

NEW HAMPSHIRE'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 New Hampshire was \$25,798; the median income for a family of four was \$79,339.⁵³

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