

NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2007

North Dakota's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	636,677
Population, Children Under 18 ²	136,518
State Poverty Rate ³	11.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	17.7

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, 1,668 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Dakota, a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 11.6% increase from 2003. Of these children, 87.8% were neglected, 17.6% were physically abused, and 9.4% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2004, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in North Dakota.⁸
- On September 30, 2004, 1,314 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,238 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 27.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.5% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 59.2% were white, 3.0% were black, 4.3% were Hispanic, 27.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.5% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 874 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 60.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2004, 128 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Dakota, a 6.3% increase from 120 in 2003.¹²
- Of the 1,314 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 284 or 21.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 2,798 North Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 1,314 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 16.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all North Dakota children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 63.8% were white, 1.4% were black, 3.2% were Hispanic, 26.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.0% were of other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota decreased from 7,242 in March 2005 to 6,923 in March 2006, a decrease of 4.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 2,720, a 4.1% decrease from March 2005.¹⁷

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- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Dakota was at 46.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, North Dakota spent \$34,473,275 in TANF funds, including 36.1% on basic assistance, 2.2% on child care, 2.3% on transportation, and 36.7% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2005, North Dakota collected and distributed \$62,992,073 in child support funds, an increase of 9.2% from 2004.²⁰
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota was \$521 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.02 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²¹

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

- In 2005, North Dakota had an estimated monthly average of 3,700 children served by subsidized child care; 4,900 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 4,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$29,556, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2006, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,353 North Dakota children, the same number as in 2004.²⁵

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, 33,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota, representing 46.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2001, 1,735 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota, representing 5.5% of all children in Medicaid.²⁷
- In 2001, North Dakota spent \$11,795,376 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$6,798 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁸
- North Dakota reported spending \$255,821.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.²⁹
- North Dakota reported spending \$3,813,394.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, North Dakota had 5,725 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 11.4% increase from 2004, when 5,137 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 517 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Dakota a ranking of 2 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2003, 58 infants younger than 1 year died in North Dakota, giving the state a ranking of 4 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in North Dakota was 11.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 48.2. This reflects a total rate of 27.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 130 adults and adolescents, as well as one child younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 6,000 children age 12–17, and 31,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Dakota.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 62 children aged-out of out-of-home care in North Dakota.³⁷
- In 2004, 1,000 North Dakota 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 3,000 children age 12–17 in North Dakota needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 5,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, six children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.63 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in North Dakota, compared with none in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 6,599 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota, a 3.2% increase from 6,396 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 51 were for violent crimes and 40 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 246 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, North Dakota spent \$44,869,152 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, 72% was from federal funds, 21% was from state funds, and 6% was from local funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$32,402,893 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 22% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 30% was from TANF.⁴⁸
- Out of 1,314 children in out-of-home care in North Dakota on September 30, 2004, only 528, or 40.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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NORTH DAKOTA'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

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