

# OREGON'S CHILDREN 2007

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## Oregon's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	3,641,056
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	849,944
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	12.0
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	18.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	16.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	22.0

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Oregon had 46,524 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 23,529 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 11,759 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 13.8 per 1,000 children, and representing a 13.4% increase from 2003. Of these children, 26.8% were neglected, 9.7% were physically abused, and 9.8% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oregon.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 10,096 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,381 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 38.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.5% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 56.1% were white, 6.8% were black, 10.4% were Hispanic, 11.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 15.3% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,340 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 62.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 943 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 10.0% increase from 849 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 10,096 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 2,597 or 25.7% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 25,020 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 10,096 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 21.0% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 52.3% were white, 5.7% were black, 12.0% were Hispanic, 12.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 17.6% were of other races.<sup>17</sup>

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# CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon decreased from 46,354 in March 2005 to 45,969 in March 2006, a decrease of 0.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 20,248, the same number as in March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oregon was at 54.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, Oregon spent \$242,993,015 in TANF funds, including 35.0% on basic assistance, 9.6% on child care, 4.9% on transportation, and 47.5% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, Oregon collected and distributed \$303,780,537 in child support funds, an increase of 1.8% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$682 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$13.12 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Oregon had an estimated monthly average of 21,300 children served by subsidized child care; 21,200 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 22,100 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than \$24,900, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Oregon had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 8,792 Oregon children, a 0.9% increase from 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 262,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon, representing 41.3% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 14,525 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon, representing 5.8% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, Oregon spent \$98,596,613 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$6,788 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- Oregon reported spending \$50,761,222.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- Oregon reported spending \$3,443,589.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, Oregon had 52,722 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 12.8% increase from 2004, when 46,720 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 2,822 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oregon a ranking of 18 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, 256 infants younger than 1 year died in Oregon, giving the state a ranking of 20 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Oregon was 16.3 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 59.1. This reflects a total rate of 33.3 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 5,538 adults and adolescents, as well as 19 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oregon.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 29,000 children age 12–17, and 179,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oregon.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 183 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Oregon.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 10,000 Oregon teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, 8% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 15,000 children age 12–17 in Oregon needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 19,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2003, 16 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.68 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 3 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, compared with 10 in 2002.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2005, 28,107 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 6.6% decrease from 30,109 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 728 were for violent crimes and 331 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,275 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Oregon spent \$323,589,392 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>47</sup> Of this amount, 67% was from federal funds, 30% was from state funds, and 3% was from local funds.<sup>48</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$217,293,277 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28% 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, 36% was from Medicaid, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 23% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 10,096 children in out-of-home care in Oregon on September 30, 2004, only 5,555, or 55.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## OREGON'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>51</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>52</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>53</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Oregon was \$33,480; the median income for a family of four was \$61,570.<sup>54</sup>

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