

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN 2007

Pennsylvania's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	12,429,616
Population, Children Under 18 ²	2,816,739
State Poverty Rate ³	11.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	16.7
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	15.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.5

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, 4,647 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children, and representing a 1.7% increase from 2003. Of these children, 2.6% were neglected, 34.3% were physically abused, and 60.7% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2004, 42 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania.⁸
- On September 30, 2004, 21,944 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,768 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 25.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.9% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 39.8% were white, 47.8% were black, 8.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.0% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 12,625 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 64.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2004, 1,898 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania, a 2.5% decrease from 1,946 in 2003.¹²
- Of the 21,944 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 4,041 or 18.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 77,700 Pennsylvania grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 21,944 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 19.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Pennsylvania children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 30.6% were white, 58.9% were black, 5.8% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.6% were of other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Pennsylvania decreased from 253,763 in March 2005 to 247,536 in March 2006, a decrease of 2.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 95,555, a 1.3% decrease from March 2005.¹⁷

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- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Pennsylvania was at 81.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Pennsylvania spent \$1,191,955,175 in TANF funds, including 32.3% on basic assistance, 2.2% on transportation, and 65.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2005, Pennsylvania collected and distributed \$1,413,912,650 in child support funds, an increase of 3.1% from 2004.²⁰
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$745 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$14.34 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, Pennsylvania had an estimated monthly average of 72,600 children served by subsidized child care; 63,700 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 60,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania, a family of three could make no more than \$32,180, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2006, Pennsylvania had 7,353 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2005, Head Start served 32,282 Pennsylvania children, a 4.6% increase from 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, 828,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania, representing 48.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2001, 46,886 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania, representing 5.9% of all children in Medicaid.²⁷
- In 2001, Pennsylvania spent \$183,839,821 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,921 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁸
- Pennsylvania reported spending \$690,751.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.²⁹
- In 2005, Pennsylvania had 179,807 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.3% increase from 2004, when 177,415 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2003, 11,718 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Pennsylvania a ranking of 43 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³¹
- In 2003, 1,070 infants younger than 1 year died in Pennsylvania, giving the state a ranking of 42 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Pennsylvania was 16.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 51.6. This reflects a total rate of 30.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³³
- Cumulative through 2004, 30,174 adults and adolescents, as well as 352 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.³⁴
- In 2004, an estimated 85,000 children age 12–17, and 544,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Pennsylvania.³⁵

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 1025 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Pennsylvania.³⁶
- In 2004, 32,000 Pennsylvania teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁷
- In 2004, 6% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁸
- In 2004, approximately 46,000 children age 12–17 in Pennsylvania needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 55,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2003, 90 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.83 per 100,000 children.⁴¹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 26 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, a 13% decrease from 30 in 2002.⁴²
- In 2005, 101,608 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, a 2.4% decrease from 104,140 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 5,107 were for violent crimes and 1,689 were for possession of a weapon.⁴³
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,341 children in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania.⁴⁴

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Pennsylvania spent \$1,702,795,124 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁵ Of this amount, 43% was from federal funds, 41% was from state funds, and 16% was from local funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$736,980,525 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 39% was from TANF.⁴⁷

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- Out of 21,944 children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania on September 30, 2004, only 12,131, or 55.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

PENNSYLVANIA'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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

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