

# SOUTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2007

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## South Dakota's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	775,933
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	188,270
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	11.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	18.2
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	14.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	26.1

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, South Dakota had 15,519 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 4,620 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 1,917 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Dakota, a rate of 10.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 55.9% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 79.0% were neglected, 14.6% were physically abused, and 4.0% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, three children died as a result of abuse or neglect in South Dakota.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 1,600 children in South Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,580 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 34.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.8% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 32.4% were white, 1.5% were black, 6.9% were Hispanic, 54.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.6% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,125 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 66.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 123 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Dakota, a 17.1% decrease from 144 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,600 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 453 or 28.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 5,200 South Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 1,600 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 17.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all South Dakota children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 30.9% were white, 0.7% were black, 5.1% were Hispanic, 59.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.0% 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 South Dakota increased from 5,871 in March 2005 to 5,934 in March 2006, an increase of 1.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 2,780, a 1.3% increase from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in South Dakota was at 41.9% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, South Dakota spent \$28,981,152 in TANF funds, including 38.8% on basic assistance, 2.8% on child care, and 25.6% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, South Dakota collected and distributed \$58,450,299 in child support funds, an increase of 4.8% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Dakota was \$552 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.61 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, South Dakota had an estimated monthly average of 4,700 children served by subsidized child care; 4,600 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 4,300 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$33,525, which is equivalent to 67% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, South Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 2,827 South Dakota children, the same number as in 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 69,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Dakota, representing 60.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 1,776 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in South Dakota, representing 2.8% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, South Dakota spent \$7,141,826 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$4,021 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- South Dakota reported spending \$2,629,859.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2005, South Dakota had 14,038 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.8% increase from 2004, when 13,397 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, 732 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving South Dakota a ranking of 5 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 74 infants younger than 1 year died in South Dakota, giving the state a ranking of 7 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in South Dakota was 17.4 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68.8. This reflects a total rate of 38.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 221 adults and adolescents, as well as five children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Dakota.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 8,000 children age 12–17, and 35,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Dakota.<sup>36</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 62 children aged-out of out-of-home care in South Dakota.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2004, 2,000 South Dakota teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 5% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 3,000 children age 12–17 in South Dakota needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 6,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2003, 11 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.02 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Dakota—the same as in 2002.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 3,096 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Dakota, a 34.6% decrease from 4,734 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 42 were for violent crimes and 51 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 522 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Dakota.<sup>45</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, South Dakota spent \$48,147,301 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>46</sup> Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, and 36% was from state funds.<sup>49</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$30,898,454 in federal funds received for child welfare, 27% 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, 13% was from Medicaid, 20% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 32% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.<sup>50</sup>
- Out of 1,600 children in out-of-home care in South Dakota on September 30, 2004, only 543, or 33.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>51</sup>

## SOUTH 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.<sup>52</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>53</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>54</sup>

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