TEXAS'S CHILDREN 2007

Texas's Children At a Glance

State Population[1] 22,859,968

Population, Children Under 18[2] 6,326,285

State Poverty Rate[3] 16.2

Poverty Rate, Children Under 18[4] 24.9

Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17[5] 22.8

Poverty Rate, Children Under 5[6] 28.8

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Texas had 163,654 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 140,038 reports were referred for investigation.[7]
- In 2004, 50,891 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Texas, a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 children, and representing a 0.7% increase from 2003. Of these children, 66.3% were neglected, 26.2% were physically abused, and 13.4% were sexually abused.[8]
- In 2004, 212 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Texas.[9]
- On September 30, 2004, 24,529 children in Texas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 22,191 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 40.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.8% were 16 or older.[10]
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 32.6% were white, 24.5% were black, 38.6% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.0% were children of other races and ethnicities.[11]

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 10,842 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 62.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.[12]
- In 2004, 2,556 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Texas, a 2.0% increase from 2,504 in 2003.[13]
- Of the 24,529 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 10,047 or 41.0% were waiting to be adopted.[14]

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 279,544 Texas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.[15]
- Of the 24,529 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 18.4% were living with relatives while in care.[16]
- Of all Texas children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 32.7% were white, 28.4% were black, 35.0% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.8% 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 Texas decreased from 195,944 in March 2005 to 154,153 in March 2006, a decrease of 27.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 68,742 , a 23.8% decrease from March 2005.[18]
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Texas was at 32.2% of the federal poverty guideline.[19]
- In 2004, Texas spent $767,925,783 in TANF funds, including 27.7% on basic assistance, and 65.1% on nonassistance.[20]
- In 2005, Texas collected and distributed $1,781,323,156 in child support funds, an increase of 18.6% from 2004.[21]
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Texas was $691 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was $13.28 per hour, working a 40-hour week.[22]

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Texas had an estimated monthly average of 123,400 children served by subsidized child care; 119,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 117,300 in 2003.[23]
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Texas, a family of three could make no more than $31,544, which is equivalent to 69% of the state's median income.[24]
- In 2006, Texas had 33507 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.[25]
- In 2005, Head Start served 67,327 Texas children, a 0.7% decrease from 2004.[26]

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 1,904,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas, representing 59.5% of the total number of enrollees.[27]
- In 2001, 31,185 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas, representing 2.0% of all children in Medicaid.[28]
- In 2001, Texas spent $184,882,555 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and $5,929 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.[29]
- Texas reported spending $61,285,740.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.[30]
- Texas reported spending $2,451,281.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.[31]
- In 2005, Texas had 526,406 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 19.1% decrease from 2004, when 650,856 children were enrolled.[32]

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- In 2003, 29,745 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Texas a ranking of 49 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).[33]
- In 2003, 2,484 infants younger than 1 year died in Texas, giving the state a ranking of 49 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).[34]
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Texas was 37.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 101.1. This reflects a total rate of 62.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.[35]
- Cumulative through 2004, 64,089 adults and adolescents, as well as 390 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Texas.[36]
- In 2004, an estimated 177,000 children age 12–17, and 892,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Texas.[37]

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 325 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Texas.[38]
- In 2004, 116,000 Texas teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.[39]
- In 2004, 10% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.[40]
- In 2004, approximately 99,000 children age 12–17 in Texas needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.[41]
- In 2004, approximately 108,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.[42]
- In 2003, 185 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.69 per 100,000 children.[43]

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 69 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Texas, the same number as in 2002.[44]
- In 2005, 173,568 children younger than 18 were arrested in Texas, a 10.5% decrease from 194,033 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 5,062 were for violent crimes and 1,897 were for possession of a weapon.[45]
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 7,662 children in juvenile correction facilities in Texas.[46]

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TEXAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Texas spent $836,728,011 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.[47] Of this amount, 67% was from federal funds, 32% was from state funds, and 1% was from local funds.[48]

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- In 2004, of the $559,992,577 in federal funds received for child welfare, 34% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 10% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 14% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 37% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.[49]
- Out of 24,529 children in out-of-home care in Texas on September 30, 2004, only 14,284 , or 58.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.[50]

TEXAS'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.[51]
- 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.[52]
- 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.[53]
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Texas was $25,632; the median income for a family of four was $54,554.[54]

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