

# UTAH'S CHILDREN 2007

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## Utah's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	2,469,585
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	742,556
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	10.9
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	9.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	12.7

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, Utah had 31,246 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 21,132 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 13,559 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Utah, a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 children, and representing a 9.6% increase from 2003. Of these children, 21.0% were neglected, 12.6% were physically abused, and 18.8% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, 10 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Utah.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 2,108 children in Utah lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,033 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 22.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.2% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 66.9% were white, 4.6% were black, 20.8% were Hispanic, 5.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.4% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,791 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 69.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 298 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Utah, a 4.4% decrease from 311 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,108 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 440 or 20.9% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 19,226 Utah grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 2,108 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 6.7% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Utah children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 62.7% were white, 2.1% were black, 23.9% were Hispanic, 9.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% 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 Utah decreased from 23,016 in March 2005 to 18,890 in March 2006, a decrease of 21.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 7,745, an 18.3% decrease from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Utah was at 46.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, Utah spent \$113,642,723 in TANF funds, including 40.0% on basic assistance, 4.4% on child care, 2.6% on transportation, and 53.0% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, Utah collected and distributed \$148,672,334 in child support funds, an increase of 5.7% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Utah was \$675 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$12.98 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Utah had an estimated monthly average of 11,100 children served by subsidized child care; 9,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 8,900 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Utah, a family of three could make no more than \$30,384, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Utah had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 5,518 Utah children, the same as in 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 137,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Utah, representing 58.9% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 6,581 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Utah, representing 5.2% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, Utah spent \$49,403,486 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,507 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- Utah reported spending \$6,870,268.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- Utah reported spending \$4,829,176.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, Utah had 43,931 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 13.1% increase from 2004, when 38,856 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>

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- In 2003, 3,260 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Utah a ranking of 21 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, 249 infants younger than 1 year died in Utah, giving the state a ranking of 19 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 Utah was 15.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60.2. This reflects a total rate of 34 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 2,189 adults and adolescents, as well as 20 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Utah.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 16,000 children age 12–17, and 79,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Utah.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 162 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Utah.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 8,000 Utah teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, 6% 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 10,000 children age 12–17 in Utah needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 11,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2003, 32 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.88 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Utah, compared with three in 2002.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2005, 26,481 children younger than 18 were arrested in Utah, a 22.1% increase from 21,687 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 360 were for violent crimes and 394 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 954 children in juvenile correction facilities in Utah.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR UTAH'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Utah spent \$127,707,298 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, 53% was from federal funds, and 46% was from state funds.<sup>48</sup>

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- In 2004, of the \$68,028,903 in federal funds received for child welfare, 39% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 33% was from Medicaid, 18% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 2% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 2,108 children in out-of-home care in Utah on September 30, 2004, only 833, or 39.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## UTAH'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 Utah was \$26,437; the median income for a family of four was \$62,032.<sup>54</sup>

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