

# WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN 2007

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## West Virginia's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	1,816,856
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	382,497
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	15.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	25.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	24.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	27.6

*All statistics are for 2005.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, West Virginia had 26,196 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,508 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2004, 8,446 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in West Virginia, a rate of 22.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 4.8% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 54.7% were neglected, 27.6% were physically abused, and 5.3% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2004, 12 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in West Virginia.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2004, 3,990 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,069 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 21.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 31.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 84.0% were white, 7.3% were black, 1.1% were Hispanic, and 7.6% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,283 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 51.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2004, 384 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in West Virginia, a 16.1% increase from 322 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 3,990 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,002 or 25.1% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 16,417 West Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 3,990 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 4.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all West Virginia children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 84.4% were white, 5.4% were black, 2.4% were Hispanic, and 7.8% 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 West Virginia decreased from 27,215 in March 2005 to 24,040 in March 2006, a decrease of 13.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 11,004, an 8.7% decrease from March 2005.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in West Virginia was at 41.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2004, West Virginia spent \$149,855,159 in TANF funds, including 46.1% on basic assistance, 3.3% on child care, 8.8% on transportation, and 41.8% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2005, West Virginia collected and distributed \$171,129,801 in child support funds, an increase of 8.0% from 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in West Virginia was \$506 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$9.73 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, West Virginia had an estimated monthly average of 10,000 children served by subsidized child care; 10,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 9,200 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in West Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$24,144, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, West Virginia had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2005, Head Start served 7,610 West Virginia children, a 0.5% decrease from 2004.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 183,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in West Virginia, representing 50.5% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2001, 6,484 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in West Virginia, representing 3.7% of all children in Medicaid.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2001, West Virginia spent \$51,156,357 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,890 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.<sup>29</sup>
- West Virginia reported spending \$1,787,596.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.<sup>30</sup>
- West Virginia reported spending \$19,413,392.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.<sup>31</sup>

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- In 2005, West Virginia had 38,614 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.6% increase from 2004, when 36,906 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2003, 1,808 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving West Virginia a ranking of 14 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2003, 152 infants younger than 1 year died in West Virginia, giving the state a ranking of 14 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 West Virginia was 21.4 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76.4. This reflects a total rate of 43.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2004, 1,364 adults and adolescents, as well as 11 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in West Virginia.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2004, an estimated 13,000 children age 12–17, and 81,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in West Virginia.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 152 children aged-out of out-of-home care in West Virginia.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2004, 6,000 West Virginia teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2004, 10% 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 7,000 children age 12–17 in West Virginia needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, approximately 9,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2003, 12 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.75 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, five children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in West Virginia, compared with two in 2002.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2005, 3,033 children younger than 18 were arrested in West Virginia, a 56.3% increase from 1,940 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 106 were for violent crimes and 41 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 498 children in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia.<sup>46</sup>

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## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, West Virginia spent \$137,724,395 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, 44% was from federal funds, and 56% was from state funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$60,843,436 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% 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, 27% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 3% was from TANF.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 3,990 children in out-of-home care in West Virginia on September 30, 2004, only 1,144 , or 28.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

## WEST VIRGINIA'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 West Virginia was \$23,784; the median income for a family of four was \$46,169.<sup>54</sup>

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