

W I S C O N S I N ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 7

Wisconsin's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	5,536,201
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,295,995
State Poverty Rate ³	10.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.9
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	16.9

All statistics are for 2005.

C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2004, 9,325 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wisconsin, a rate of 7.1 per 1,000 children, and representing an 8.3% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 28.2% were neglected, 14.0% were physically abused, and 43.3% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2004, 11 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin.⁸
- On September 30, 2004, 7,812 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,824 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 26.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 18.7% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 42.4% were white, 40.1% were black, 8.1% were Hispanic, 2.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.7% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

P E R M A N E N T F A M I L I E S F O R C H I L D R E N

- Of the 5,682 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 60.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2004, 1,152 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a 3.0% decrease from 1,187 in 2003.¹²
- Of the 7,812 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 1,448 or 18.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

K I N S H I P S U P P O R T

- In 2005, approximately 27,850 Wisconsin grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 7,812 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 30.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Wisconsin children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 33.9% were white, 46.9% were black, 9.5% were Hispanic, 2.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.1% were of other races.¹⁶

C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Wisconsin decreased from 46,749 in March 2005 to 38,841 in March 2006, a decrease of 20.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 17,727, a 14.5% decrease from March 2005.¹⁷

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- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Wisconsin was at 48.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Wisconsin spent \$492,734,455 in TANF funds, including 27.5% on basic assistance, and 72.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2005, Wisconsin collected and distributed \$601,203,390 in child support funds, an increase of 2.1% from 2004.²⁰
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wisconsin was \$647 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$12.45 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, Wisconsin had an estimated monthly average of 28,700 children served by subsidized child care; 27,600 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 18,200 in 2003.²²
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$30,708, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2006, Wisconsin had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2005, Head Start served 13,538 Wisconsin children, the same number as in 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, 353,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin, representing 45.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2001, 18,505 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin, representing 5.8% of all children in Medicaid.²⁷
- In 2001, Wisconsin spent \$46,774,071 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$2,528 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁸
- Wisconsin reported spending \$1,233,496.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.²⁹
- Wisconsin reported spending \$933,039.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Wisconsin had 57,165 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 15.8% decrease from 2004, when 67,893 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 4,764 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Wisconsin a ranking of 25 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2003, 456 infants younger than 1 year died in Wisconsin, giving the state a ranking of 30 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Wisconsin was 15.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 51.9. This reflects a total rate of 30.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 4,186 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 59,000 children age 12–17, and 332,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wisconsin.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 475 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Wisconsin.³⁷
- In 2004, 21,000 Wisconsin teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 7% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 30,000 children age 12–17 in Wisconsin needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 40,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, 53 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.56 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 19 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Wisconsin, compared with 16 in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 69,037 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin, a 31.8% decrease from 101,245 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 882 were for violent crimes and 869 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,524 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Wisconsin spent \$384,937,354 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁶ Of this amount, 46% was from federal funds, and 54% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$177,071,183 in federal funds received for child welfare, 67% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 6% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 16% was from TANF.⁴⁸

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- Out of 7,812 children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin on September 30, 2004, only 2,563, or 32.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

WISCONSIN'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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

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