

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

Wyoming's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	509,294
Population, Children Under 18 ²	114,321
State Poverty Rate ³	10.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	9.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	15.0

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, Wyoming had 5,019 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,018 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2004, 678 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Wyoming, a rate of 5.8 per 1,000 children, and representing a 13.7% decrease from 2003. Of these children, 62.8% were neglected, 8.3% were physically abused, and 10.6% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2004, four children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Wyoming.⁹
- On September 30, 2004, 1,209 children in Wyoming lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,055 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 22.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 29.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 81.2% were white, 3.3% were black, 9.6% were Hispanic, 1.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.9% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

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 885 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 81.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2004, 56 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wyoming, the same number as in 2003.¹³
- Of the 1,209 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 73 or 6.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

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

- In 2005, approximately 3,893 Wyoming grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,209 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 15.0% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Wyoming children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 85.6% were white, 2.2% were black, 8.3% were Hispanic, 0.6% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.3% 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 Wyoming decreased from 545 in March 2005 to 539 in March 2006, a decrease of 1.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 302, a 3.0% decrease from March 2005.¹⁸
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Wyoming was at 30.3% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2004, Wyoming spent \$39,844,895 in TANF funds, including 13.3% on basic assistance, 3.9% on child care, 28.2% on transportation, and 54.7% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2005, Wyoming collected and distributed \$51,243,324 in child support funds, an increase of 5.4% from 2004.²¹
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Wyoming was \$555 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.68 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Wyoming had an estimated monthly average of 4,600 children served by subsidized child care; 4,500 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 4,100 in 2003.²³
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wyoming, a family of three could make no more than \$29,772, which is equivalent to 63% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2006, Wyoming had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2005, Head Start served 1,792 Wyoming children, a 0.1% decrease from 2004.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 41,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wyoming, representing 59.6% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2001, 1,839 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Wyoming, representing 5.4% of all children in Medicaid.²⁸
- In 2001, Wyoming spent \$6,831,874 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,715 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁹
- Wyoming reported spending \$1,305.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.³⁰
- Wyoming reported spending \$1,755,797.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³¹
- In 2005, Wyoming had 6,120 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.8% increase from 2004, when 5,525 children were enrolled.³²

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- In 2003, 597 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Wyoming a ranking of 3 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2003, 39 infants younger than 1 year died in Wyoming, giving the state a ranking of 2 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 Wyoming was 19.4 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 74.4. This reflects a total rate of 42.7 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2004, 218 adults and adolescents, as well as two children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Wyoming.³⁶
- In 2004, an estimated 5,000 children age 12–17, and 26,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wyoming.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 41 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Wyoming.³⁸
- In 2004, 2,000 Wyoming teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2004, 6% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 2,000 children age 12–17 in Wyoming needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, approximately 3,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2003, 11 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 8.03 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Wyoming, compared with one in 2002.⁴⁴
- In 2005, 6,548 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wyoming, a 2.3% decrease from 6,704 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 69 were for violent crimes and 67 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 357 children in juvenile correction facilities in Wyoming.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WYOMING'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Wyoming spent \$27,281,167 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, 34% was from federal funds, and 66% was from state funds.⁴⁸

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- In 2004, of the \$9,349,158 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, 31% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 20% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,209 children in out-of-home care in Wyoming on September 30, 2004, only 135, or 11.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

WYOMING'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 Wyoming was \$28,000; the median income for a family of four was \$56,065.⁵⁴

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