

CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN 2008

California's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	36,457,549
Population, Children Under 18 ²	9,701,862
State Poverty Rate ³	12.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	18.1
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	17
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.2

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, California had 344,481 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 228,012 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 54,250 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in California, a rate of 9.8 per 1,000 children, and representing a 4.1% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 70.8% were neglected, 12.7% were physically abused, and 7.4% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 140 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in California.⁹
- In 2005, 81,174 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 92,344 children in 2004. In 2005, 28.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 23.8% were white, 25.9% black, 43.5% Hispanic, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 42,589 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 60.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 7,490 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California, a 3.5% decrease from 7,754 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 81,174 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 4,182, or 5.2%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 273,070 California grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 81,174 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 30.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all California children in kinship care in 2005, 20.1% were white, 29.3% were black, 44.9% were Hispanic, 0.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.9% were other races.¹⁷

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CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California increased from 1,041,964 in March 2006 to 1,157,566 in March 2007, an increase of 11.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 470,099, a 1.5% increase from March 2006.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in California was at 66% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, California spent \$6,280,374,921 in TANF funds, including 55.4% on basic assistance, 2.5% on child care, 1.9% on transportation, and 36.6% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2006, California collected and distributed \$2,187,632,783 in child support funds, a decrease of 1.5% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,189 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$22.86 per hour working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, California had an estimated monthly average of 162,600 children served by subsidized child care; 160,100 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 153,600 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California a family of three could make no more than \$43,536, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, California had 207,000 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 98,395 California children, the same as in 2005.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2004, 4,348,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in California, representing 40.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 151,412 children were enrolled in Medicaid in California on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, California spent \$529,240,940 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,495 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- California reported spending \$28,920,253 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- California reported spending \$249,420,652 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, California had 1,391,405 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 12.07% increase from 2005, when 1,223,475 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 36,454 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving

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California a rank of 8 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

- In 2004, 2,811 infants younger than age 1 died in California, giving it a rank of 6 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in California was 21.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 67.9. This reflects a total rate of 39.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2005, 58,788 adults and adolescents, as well as 118 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in California.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 282,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,605,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in California.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 4393 children aged out of out-of-home care in California.³⁸
- In 2005, 134,000 California teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 15% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 169,000 children ages 12–17 in California needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 185,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 179 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.69 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 406 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, a 169% increase from 151 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 231,735 children younger than 18 were arrested in California, a 6.71% decrease from 217,158 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 16,796 were for violent crimes and 9,248 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 16,782 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, California spent \$4,328,207,000 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 43% was from federal funds, 33% was from state funds, and 24% was from local funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$1,858,513,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 71% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% was from

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TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸

- Out of 81,174 children in out-of-home care in California in 2005, only 46,893 children, or 57.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

CALIFORNIA'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 clearly demonstrated 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 being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵²

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