

COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2008

Colorado's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	4,753,377
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,180,525
State Poverty Rate ³	9.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	10.9
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	18.4

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Colorado had 64,492 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 26,950 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 6,395 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Colorado, a rate of 8 per 1,000 children, and representing a 1.3% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 63.2% were neglected, 17.3% were physically abused, and 10.1% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 20 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Colorado.⁹
- In 2005, 8,213 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,196 children in 2004. In 2005, 25.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 29.8% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 48.7% were white, 11% black, 35.4% Hispanic, 1.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.8% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,182 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 70.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 954 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 0.4% decrease from 958 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 8,213 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 1,807, or 22%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 35,132 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 8,213 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 14.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Colorado children in kinship care in 2005, 45.9% were white, 8.8% were black, 41.2% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.9% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado decreased from 36,276 in March 2006 to 25,360 in March 2007, a decrease of 22.9%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 10,230, a 33.7% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Colorado was at 42.6% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Colorado spent \$209,433,371 in TANF funds, including 30.1% on basic assistance, 2% on transportation, 67.9% on nonassistance, and none on child care.²⁰
- In 2006, Colorado collected and distributed \$251,838,691 in child support funds, an increase of 6.6% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Colorado was \$854 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.43 per hour working a 40-hour week.²²

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2005, Colorado had an estimated monthly average of 19,100 children served by subsidized child care; 20,600 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 22,800 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Colorado a family of three could make no more than \$29,468, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no children in Colorado were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 9,820 Colorado children, the same as in 2005.²⁶

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

- In 2004, 318,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado, representing 57.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 18,795 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Colorado spent \$147,832,700 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,866 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Colorado reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Colorado reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Colorado had 69,997 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 14.95% increase from 2005, when 59,530 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 6,130 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Colorado a rank of 39 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 434 infants younger than age 1 died in Colorado, giving it a rank of 20 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Colorado was 25.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 73. This reflects a total rate of 43.9 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

- Cumulative through 2005, 9,647 adults and adolescents, as well as 15 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Colorado.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 40,000 children ages 12–17, and 246,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Colorado.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 359 children aged out of out-of-home care in Colorado.³⁸
- In 2005, 19,000 Colorado teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 13% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 in Colorado needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 29,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 58 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.58 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 23 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Colorado, a 229% increase from 7 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 44,178 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 4.02% increase from 46,030 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 1,066 were for violent crimes and 721 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,776 children in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR COLORADO'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Colorado spent \$451,511,097 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 34% was from federal funds, 54% was from state funds, and 12% was from local funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$151,791,868 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% 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, 22% was from Medicaid, 23% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 8,213 children in out-of-home care in Colorado in 2005, only 3,060 children, or 37.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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COLORADO'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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