

CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2008

Connecticut's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	3,504,809
Population, Children Under 18 ²	835,006
State Poverty Rate ³	8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	10.3
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	8.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	12.5

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, 8,157 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 13.7 per 1,000 children, and representing a 15.3% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 74.1% were neglected, 7.1% were physically abused, and 4.6% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2005, 9 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Connecticut.⁸
- In 2005, 7,032 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,803 children in 2004. In 2005, 23.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 34% were white, 30.6% black, 29.7% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,904 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 67.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2005, 740 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 52.8% increase from 349 in 2004.¹²
- Of the 7,032 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 1,529, or 21.7%, were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 16,878 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 7,032 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 18.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care in 2005, 34.7% were white, 31.8% were black, 28.1% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut decreased from 35,990 in March 2006 to 34,002 in March 2007, a decrease of 4.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 17,142, a 12% decrease from March 2006.¹⁷
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was at 45.5% of the federal poverty level.¹⁸

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- In 2006, Connecticut spent \$469,128,109 in TANF funds, including 26.5% on basic assistance, 0.7% on child care, 0.4% on transportation, and 71.8% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2006, Connecticut collected and distributed \$238,378,851 in child support funds, an increase of 1.3% from 2005.²⁰
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$1,062 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$20.42 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, Connecticut had an estimated monthly average of 9,600 children served by subsidized child care; 10,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 11,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut a family of three could make no more than \$37,514, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2007, no children in Connecticut were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2006, Head Start served 7,126 Connecticut children, the same number as in 2005.²⁵

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

- In 2004, 273,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut, representing 53.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2004, 5,923 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut on the basis of being in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, Connecticut spent \$22,350,802 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,774 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁸
- Connecticut reported spending \$77,230 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.²⁹
- Connecticut reported spending \$875 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³⁰
- In 2006, Connecticut had 23,110 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 3.55% increase from 2005, when 22,289 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2004, 3,273 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Connecticut a rank of 19 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, 233 infants younger than age 1 died in Connecticut, giving it a rank of 9 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Connecticut was 12.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 42.4. This reflects a total rate of 24.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴

- Cumulative through 2005, 7,095 adults and adolescents, as well as 23 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁵
- In 2005, an estimated 29,000 children ages 12–17, and 174,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 40 children aged out of out-of-home care in Connecticut.³⁷
- In 2005, 7,000 Connecticut teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2005, 12% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2005, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 in Connecticut needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 18,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, 13 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.39 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 9 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, a 125% increase from 4 in 2003.⁴³
- In 2006, 15,185 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 27.03% increase from 20,811 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 968 were for violent crimes and 285 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 627 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Connecticut spent \$348,824,308 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 70% was from federal funds, and 30% was from state funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$245,436,600 in federal funds received for child welfare, 39% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 5% was from Medicaid, 1% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 51% was from TANF, and 1% came from other federal sources.⁴⁷
- Out of 7,032 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2005, only 2,678 children, or 38.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

CONNECTICUT'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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Connecticut was \$51,437; the median income for a family of four was \$86,001.⁵²

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