

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2008

Delaware's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	853,476
Population, Children Under 18 ²	195,879
State Poverty Rate ³	9.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	12.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	10.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	16.5

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Delaware had 7,717 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,799 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 1,356 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 10 per 1,000 children, and representing an 18% increase from 2004. Of these children, 28% were neglected, 27.8% were physically abused, and 9.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Delaware.⁹
- In 2005, 962 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 849 children in 2004. In 2005, 28.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 33.7% were white, 57.8% black, 7.7% Hispanic, 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.5% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 681 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 73.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 78 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 6.4% increase from 73 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 962 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 275, or 28.6%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 5,607 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 962 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 11.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Delaware children in kinship care in 2005, 29.9% were white, 61.7% were black, 8.4% were Hispanic, and none were American Indian/Alaskan Native or other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware decreased from 11,690 in March 2006 to 9,564 in March 2007, a decrease of 16.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 4,451, a 19.1% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Delaware was at 34% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Delaware spent \$76,634,656 in TANF funds, including 23.9% on basic assistance, 12.2% on child care, 16.8% on transportation, and 47% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2006, Delaware collected and distributed \$69,753,316 in child support funds, an increase of 4.9% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$848 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$16.31 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, Delaware had an estimated monthly average of 6,900 children served by subsidized child care; 6,400 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 6,800 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Delaware a family of three could make no more than \$34,344, which is equivalent to 55% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no children in Delaware were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 2,071 Delaware children, a 5.7% increase from 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, 72,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware, representing 43.6% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 4,733 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Delaware spent \$64,473,561 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$13,622 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Delaware reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Delaware reported spending \$1,845 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Delaware had 10,751 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 3.69% increase from 2005, when 10,354 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 1,023 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Delaware a rank of 39 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 98 infants younger than age 1 died in Delaware, giving it a rank of 43 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Delaware was 25.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70. This reflects a total rate of 43.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2005, 1,673 adults and adolescents, as well as 9 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Delaware.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 33,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Delaware.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 67 children aged out of out-of-home care in Delaware.³⁸
- In 2005, 4,000 Delaware teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 16% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 in Delaware needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 3 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.33 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 7 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, a 250% increase from 2 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 7,448 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 0.01% increase from 7,449 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 562 were for violent crimes and 158 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 333 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Delaware spent \$49,474,343 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 33% was from federal funds, and 67% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$16,166,047 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 15% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 16% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 962 children in out-of-home care in Delaware in 2005, only 202 children, or 21%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

DELAWARE'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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