

# I D A H O ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 8

## Idaho's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	1,466,465
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	374,180
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	13.2
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	11.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	17.5

*All statistics are for 2006.*

## C H I L D A B U S E A N D N E G L E C T

- In 2005, Idaho had 14,750 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,499 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2005, 1,250 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 5.1 per 1,000 children, and representing a 2% increase from 2004. Of these children, 71.9% were neglected, 18% were physically abused, and 6.1% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2005, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Idaho.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2005, 1,818 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,565 children in 2004. In 2005, 38.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.7% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 72.7% were white, 1.5% black, 16.7% Hispanic, 6.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.6% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## 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 1,409 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 80.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2005, 149 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, an 18.1% decrease from 176 in 2004.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,818 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 376, or 20.7%, were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

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

- In 2005, approximately 9,792 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 1,818 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 21.9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care in 2005, 70.6% were white, 0.8% were black, 23.1% were Hispanic, 4.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## C H I L D P O V E R T Y A N D I N C O M E S U P P O R T

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho decreased from 2,954 in March 2006 to 2,357 in March 2007, a decrease of 12.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 1,560, a 15.9% decrease from March 2006.<sup>18</sup>

# 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

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Idaho was at 38.4% of the federal poverty level.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Idaho spent \$38,925,727 in TANF funds, including 18.6% on basic assistance, 81.4% on nonassistance, and none on child care and transportation.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2006, Idaho collected and distributed \$121,483,643 in child support funds, an increase of 5.1% from 2005.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$624 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$12.00 per hour working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

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

- In 2005, Idaho had an estimated monthly average of 10,600 children served by subsidized child care; 10,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 7,800 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Idaho a family of three could make no more than \$20,472, which is equivalent to 42% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2007, no children in Idaho were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2006, Head Start served 2,951 Idaho children, an 11.8% decrease from 2005.<sup>26</sup>

## 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, 144,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho, representing 65.1% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004, 11,765 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Idaho spent \$59,048,902 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$5,019 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.<sup>29</sup>
- Idaho reported spending \$240,645 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.<sup>30</sup>
- Idaho reported spending \$406,764 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2006, Idaho had 24,727 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an 11.72% increase from 2005, when 21,830 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2004, 1,529 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Idaho a rank of 10 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 139 infants younger than age 1 died in Idaho, giving it a rank of 19 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Idaho was 16.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 70.5. This reflects a total rate of 38.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2005, 627 adults and adolescents—but no children below age 13—were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Idaho.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2005, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12–17, and 59,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Idaho.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 89 children aged out of out-of-home care in Idaho.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2005, 7,000 Idaho teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2005, 14% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 in Idaho needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2004, 17 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.03 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 3 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, a 50% increase from 2 in 2003.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2006, 14,339 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 45.37% decrease from 9,864 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 214 were for violent crimes and 167 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 489 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IDAHO'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Idaho spent \$59,274,405 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 62% was from federal funds, and 38% was from state funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$36,971,405 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 1% was from Medicaid, 29% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 27% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 1,818 children in out-of-home care in Idaho in 2005, only 1,013 children, or 55.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## IDAHO'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.<sup>50</sup>
- 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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Idaho was \$31,720; the median income for a family of four was \$53,376.<sup>53</sup>

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## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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