

KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2008

Kentucky's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	4,206,074
Population, Children Under 18 ²	980,160
State Poverty Rate ³	16.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	23.5
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	22.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	26.3

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Kentucky had 63,748 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 47,960 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 9,980 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kentucky, a rate of 19.9 per 1,000 children, and representing a 1.5% increase from 2004. Of these children, 85% were neglected, 12.4% were physically abused, and 5.1% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 29 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kentucky.⁹
- In 2005, 7,287 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,000 children in 2004. In 2005, 28.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 72.7% were white, 19.2% black, 0.7% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,497 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 72.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 876 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kentucky, an 8.1% increase from 805 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 7,287 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 2,170, or 29.8%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 45,304 Kentucky grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,287 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 8.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Kentucky children in kinship care in 2005, 77.4% were white, 17.4% were black, none were Hispanic or American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.2% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kentucky decreased from 68,438 in March 2006 to 58,738 in March 2007, a decrease of 11.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 29,173, a 14.2% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kentucky was at 33.8% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Kentucky spent \$190,010,276 in TANF funds, including 52.9% on basic assistance, 6.7% on child care, 2.6% on transportation, and 37.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2006, Kentucky collected and distributed \$356,470,107 in child support funds, an increase of 5.9% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kentucky was \$557 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.72 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, Kentucky had an estimated monthly average of 36,500 children served by subsidized child care; 34,300 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 39,900 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky a family of three could make no more than \$24,900, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no Kentucky children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 16,071 Kentucky 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, 421,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky, representing 49.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 11,154 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Kentucky spent \$112,148,916 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$10,055 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Kentucky reported spending \$1,388,698 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Kentucky reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Kentucky had 64,861 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 1.75% increase from 2005, when 63,728 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 4,872 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Kentucky a rank of 38 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 378 infants younger than age 1 died in Kentucky, giving it a rank of 27 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Kentucky was 23.9 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 86.6. This reflects a total rate of 49.2 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, 2,455 adults and adolescents, as well as 8 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 187,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kentucky.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 544 children aged out of out-of-home care in Kentucky.³⁸
- In 2005, 18,000 Kentucky teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 21% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 in Kentucky needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 29 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.64 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 18 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kentucky, an 800% increase from 2 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 8,746 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky, a 36.88% increase from 13,857 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 394 were for violent crimes and 145 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 837 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Kentucky spent \$367,994,212 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 36% was from federal funds, and 64% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$133,189,846 in federal funds received for child welfare, 51% 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, 12% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 23% was from TANF, and 5% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 7,287 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky in 2005, only 3,827 children, or 52.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

KENTUCKY'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
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Kentucky was \$30,232; the median income for a family of four was \$53,198.⁵³

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