

# MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2008

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## Maryland's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	5,615,727
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,402,961
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	8.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	10.9
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	9.1
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	10.9

*All statistics are for 2006.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, the rate of children who were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maryland 10.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.8% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 61.8% were neglected, 26.7% were physically abused, and 13.4% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2005, 28 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Maryland.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2005, 10,867 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,111 children in 2004. In 2005, 23.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 29.2% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 21.6% were white, 73.6% black, 1.8% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.8% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,679 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 47.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2005, 620 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maryland, a 47.4% decrease from 914 in 2004.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 10,867 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 2,090, or 19.2%, were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 44,228 Maryland grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 10,867 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 31.3% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Maryland children in kinship care in 2005, 12.3% were white, 84.7% were black, 0.8% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2% were other races.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maryland decreased from 43,707 in March 2006 to 40,706 in March 2007, an 8.1% decrease. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 18,186, an 18.8% decrease from March 2006.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maryland was at 41.2% of the federal poverty level.<sup>18</sup>

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## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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- In 2006, Maryland spent \$357,073,217 in TANF funds, including 29.8% on basic assistance, 69.9% on nonassistance, and none on child care or transportation.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Maryland collected and distributed \$461,979,714 in child support funds, an increase of 1.9% from 2005.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland was \$1,044 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$20.07 per hour working a 40-hour week.<sup>21</sup>

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

- In 2005, Maryland had an estimated monthly average of 20,500 children served by subsidized child care; 24,000 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 30,000 in 2003.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland a family of three could make no more than \$29,990, which is equivalent to 41% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2007, no Maryland children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2006, Head Start served 10,347 Maryland children, the same as in 2005.<sup>25</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, 469,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland, representing 55.3% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2004, 17,762 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004, Maryland spent \$98,439,827 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$5,542 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.<sup>28</sup>
- Maryland reported spending \$302,970 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.<sup>29</sup>
- Maryland reported spending \$6,637,872 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2006, Maryland had 136,034 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an 11.55% increase from 2005, when 120,316 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2004, 6,947 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maryland a rank of 43 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>
- In 2004, 630 infants younger than age 1 died in Maryland, giving it a rank of 41 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Maryland was 18 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 54.9. This reflects a total rate of 32.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>

- Cumulative through 2005, 13,768 adults and adolescents, as well as 52 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2005, an estimated 38,000 children ages 12–17, and 234,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maryland.<sup>36</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 140 children aged out of out-of-home care in Maryland.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2005, 21,000 Maryland teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2005, 13% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 21,000 children ages 12–17 in Maryland needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 25,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2004, 26 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.7 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 61 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maryland, a 97% increase from 31 in 2003.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 49,359 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland, a 0.13% decrease from 49,297 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 3,661 were for violent crimes and 1,610 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,167 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland.<sup>45</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Maryland spent \$438,887,488 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, 63% was from state funds, and 3% was from local funds.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$146,582,795 in federal funds received for child welfare, 71% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 21% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 1% came from other federal sources.<sup>47</sup>
- Out of 10,867 children in out-of-home care in Maryland in 2005, only 3,750 children, or 34.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>48</sup>

## MARYLAND'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>49</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>50</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>51</sup>

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