

# MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2008

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## Missouri's Children At a Glance

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	5,842,713
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,378,232
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	11.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	17.7
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	15.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	21.9

*All statistics are for 2006.*

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Missouri had 99,993 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 55,217 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2005, 6,404 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Missouri, a rate of 6.5 per 1,000 children, and representing a 6.2% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 51.7% were neglected, 27.5% were physically abused, and 26.2% were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2005, 42 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Missouri.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2005, 11,433 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,681 children in 2004. In 2005, 30.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.3% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 64.7% were white, 31.3% black, 2.4% Hispanic, 0.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.1% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,213 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 56.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2005, 1,309 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Missouri, a 6.3% decrease from 1,391 in 2004.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 11,433 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 3,741, or 32.7%, were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 43,652 Missouri grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 11,433 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 18.4% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Missouri children in kinship care in 2005, 62.3% were white, 32.7% were black, 3.6% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.2% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Missouri increased from 90,997 in March 2006 to 102,522 in March 2007, an increase of 14.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 40,340, a 1.7% increase from March 2006.<sup>18</sup>

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Missouri was at 34.2% of the federal poverty level.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Missouri spent \$323,472,629 in TANF funds, including 37.8% on basic assistance, 62.2% on nonassistance, and none on child care and transportation.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2006, Missouri collected and distributed \$489,006,349 in child support funds, an increase of 4.6% from 2005.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Missouri was \$612 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.76 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, Missouri had an estimated monthly average of 36,300 children served by subsidized child care; 38,700 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 37,900 in 2003.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri a family of three could make no more than \$18,216, which is equivalent to 34% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2007, no Missouri children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2006, Head Start served 17,451 Missouri children, the same as in 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, 658,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri, representing 54% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2004, 3,830 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Missouri spent \$16,019,089 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$4,183 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.<sup>29</sup>
- Missouri reported spending \$294,356 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.<sup>30</sup>
- Missouri reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2006, Missouri had 106,577 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an 8.24% decrease from 2005, when 115,355 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2004, 6,429 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Missouri a rank of 30 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 584 infants younger than age 1 died in Missouri, giving it a rank of 31 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 Missouri was 22 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 74.6. This reflects a total rate of 43.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>

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# 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, 9,948 adults and adolescents, as well as 42 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Missouri.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2005, an estimated 48,000 children ages 12–17, and 276,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Missouri.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 354 children aged out of out-of-home care in Missouri.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2005, 23,000 Missouri teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2005, 15% 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 25,000 children ages 12–17 in Missouri needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2005, approximately 33,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2004, 49 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.11 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 38 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Missouri, a 124% increase from 17 in 2003.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2006, 49,659 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri, a decrease from 26,874 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 2,188 were for violent crimes and 817 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,413 children in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Missouri spent \$528,143,059 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 58% was from federal funds, and 42% was from state funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2004, of the \$305,431,064 in federal funds received for child welfare, 27% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 11% was from Medicaid, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 6% was from TANF, and 42% came from other federal sources.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 11,433 children in out-of-home care in Missouri in 2005, only 3,013 children, or 26.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## MISSOURI'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 case-loads 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 Missouri was \$24,732; the median income for a family of four was \$64,128.<sup>53</sup>

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