

MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2008

Montana's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	944,632
Population, Children Under 18 ²	204,994
State Poverty Rate ³	13.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17.2
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	15.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.2

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Montana had 12,958 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 8,181 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 1,153 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Montana, a rate of 10.2 per 1,000 children, and representing a 17.6% increase from 2004. Of these children, 74.3% were neglected, 10.7% were physically abused, and 6.9% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 2 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Montana.⁹
- In 2005, 2,222 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,030 children in 2004. In 2005, 39.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 12.2% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 52.2% were white, 1.2% black, 4.7% Hispanic, 33.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,149 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 57.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 244 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, a 21.3% increase from 192 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 2,222 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 665, or 29.9%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 5,899 Montana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 2,222 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 32.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Montana children in kinship care in 2005, 51.3% were white, 1.1% were black, 4.9% were Hispanic, 35.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.8% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Montana decreased from 9,783 in March 2006 to 8,148 in March 2007, a decrease of 17.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 3,230, a 31.7% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Montana was at 47.2% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Montana spent \$42,769,237 in TANF funds, including 38.6% on basic assistance, 3.7% on child care, 52% on nonassistance, and none on transportation.²⁰
- In 2006, Montana collected and distributed \$49,925,528 in child support funds, an increase of 6.7% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Montana was \$591 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$11.37 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, Montana had an estimated monthly average of 5,200 children served by subsidized child care; 5,100 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 5,200 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana a family of three could make no more than \$24,900, which is equivalent to 53% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no Montana children were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 2,929 Montana children, a 0.3% 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, 72,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana, representing 58.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 3,939 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Montana spent \$27,916,125 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,087 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Montana reported spending \$199,538 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³⁰
- In 2006, Montana had 17,304 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), an 8.45% increase from 2005, when 15,841 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2004, 880 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Montana a rank of 18 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, 52 infants younger than age 1 died in Montana, giving it a rank of 1 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Montana was 17.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60.9. This reflects a total rate of 35.8 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴

- Cumulative through 2005, 184 adults and adolescents, but no children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁵
- In 2005, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17, and 47,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Montana.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 90 children aged out of out-of-home care in Montana.³⁷
- In 2005, 4,000 Montana teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2005, 13% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2005, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 in Montana needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, 12 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.88 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 1 child younger than 18 was killed in a firearm homicide in Montana, a 75% decrease from 4 in 2003.⁴³
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 261 children in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.⁴⁴

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Montana spent \$46,020,588 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 52% was from federal funds, and 48% was from state funds.⁴⁵
- In 2004, of the \$23,864,816 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% 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, 7% was from Medicaid, 8% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 15% was from TANF, and 2% came from other federal sources.⁴⁶
- Out of 2,222 children in out-of-home care in Montana in 2005, only 773 children, or 34.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁷

MONTANA'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.⁴⁸

- 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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Montana was \$31,085; the median income for a family of four was \$49,124.⁵¹

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