

NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2008

North Dakota's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	635,867
Population, Children Under 18 ²	136,518
State Poverty Rate ³	11.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	16.3
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	15

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, 793 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Dakota, a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 children, and representing a 6.2% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 80.1% were neglected, 16.7% were physically abused, and 7.7% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2005, no children died as a result of abuse or neglect in North Dakota.⁸
- In 2005, 1,364 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,314 children in 2004. In 2005, 29.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 57.9% were white, 2.9% black, 5.6% Hispanic, 26.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 911 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 57.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2005, 152 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Dakota, a 15.8% increase from 128 in 2004.¹²
- Of the 1,364 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 345, or 25.3%, were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 2,749 North Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 1,364 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 20.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all North Dakota children in kinship care in 2005, 58.1% were white, 1.1% were black, 6.9% were Hispanic, 22.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.6% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota decreased from 6,934 in March 2006 to 5,233 in March 2007, a decrease of 27.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 2,068, a 27.6% decrease from March 2006.¹⁷
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Dakota was at 45.5% of the federal poverty level.¹⁸

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- In 2006, North Dakota spent \$31,748,346 in TANF funds, including 33.1% on basic assistance, 2.6% on child care, 1.1% on transportation, and 37.2% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2006, North Dakota collected and distributed \$68,450,313 in child support funds, an increase of 8.7% from 2005.²⁰
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota was \$537 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.33 per hour working a 40-hour week.²¹

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

- In 2005, North Dakota had an estimated monthly average of 3,700 children served by subsidized child care; 4,900 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 4,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota a family of three could make no more than \$29,556, which is equivalent to 51% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2007, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2006, Head Start served 2,353 North Dakota children, the same as in 2005.²⁵

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, 41,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota, representing 51.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2004, 66,076 children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota on the basis of being in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, North Dakota spent \$391,798,590 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$5,930 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁸
- North Dakota reported spending \$1,639,589 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.²⁹
- North Dakota reported spending \$32,248,664 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³⁰
- In 2006, North Dakota had 6,318 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 9.39% increase from 2005, when 5,725 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2004, 539 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Dakota a rank of 7 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, 46 infants younger than age 1 died in North Dakota, giving it a rank of 12 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in North Dakota was 11.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 48.2. This reflects a total rate of 27.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴

- Cumulative through 2005, 143 adults and adolescents, as well as 1 child under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.³⁵
- In 2005, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 31,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Dakota.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 67 children aged out of out-of-home care in North Dakota.³⁷
- In 2005, 1,000 North Dakota teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2005, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2005, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in North Dakota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, 10 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.83 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 1 child younger than 18 was killed in a firearm homicide in North Dakota, a 50% decrease from 2 in 2003.⁴³
- In 2006, 6,769 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota, a 2.58% decrease from 6,599 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 42 were for violent crimes and 43 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 246 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, North Dakota spent \$44,869,152 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 72% was from federal funds, 21% was from state funds, and 6% was from local funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$32,402,893 in federal funds received for child welfare, 41% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 22% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 30% was from TANF.⁴⁷
- Out of 1,364 children in out-of-home care in North Dakota in 2005, only 538 children, or 39.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

NORTH DAKOTA'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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

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