

OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN 2008

Oklahoma's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	3,579,212
Population, Children Under 18 ²	853,336
State Poverty Rate ³	15.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20.7
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	19.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	28.7

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, Oklahoma had 62,342 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,952 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2005, 7,761 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oklahoma, a rate of 16.3 per 1,000 children, and representing an 11% increase from 2004. Of these children, 82.4% were neglected, 18.3% were physically abused, and 6.4% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2005, 41 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma.⁹
- In 2005, 11,393 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,572 children in 2004. In 2005, 43.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 42.2% were white, 16.5% black, 11.7% Hispanic, 11% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 18.7% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,021 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 66.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2005, 1,013 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oklahoma, a 12.6% decrease from 1,141 in 2004.¹³
- Of the 11,393 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 3,206, or 28.1%, were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 43,029 Oklahoma grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 11,393 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 28.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Oklahoma children in kinship care in 2005, 42.3% were white, 21.1% were black, 11.5% were Hispanic, 7.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 18.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oklahoma decreased from 21,502 in March 2006 to 18,718 in March 2007, a decrease of 10.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 8,623, a 23.3% decrease from March 2006.¹⁸

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oklahoma was at 31.4% of the federal poverty level.¹⁹
- In 2006, Oklahoma spent \$150,972,622 in TANF funds, including 18.3% on basic assistance, 28.3% on child care, 13.5% on transportation, and 35.4% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2006, Oklahoma collected and distributed \$204,527,099 in child support funds, an increase of 15.2% from 2005.²¹
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oklahoma was \$557 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$10.70 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, Oklahoma had an estimated monthly average of 19,700 children served by subsidized child care; 21,800 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 21,300 in 2003.²³
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma a family of three could make no more than \$29,100, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²⁴
- In 2007, no children in Oklahoma were on the state's waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2006, Head Start served 13,474 Oklahoma children, a 3.2% 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, 440,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma, representing 64.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2004, 15,609 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Oklahoma spent \$110,541,294 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$7,082 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁹
- Oklahoma reported spending \$15,852,496 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.³⁰
- Oklahoma reported spending \$0 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³¹
- In 2006, Oklahoma had 116,012 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 6.82% increase from 2005, when 108,100 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2004, 4,117 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oklahoma a rank of 22 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2004, 411 infants younger than age 1 died in Oklahoma, giving it a rank of 37 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Oklahoma was 29.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 91.9. This reflects a total rate of 55.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2005, 4,141 adults and adolescents, as well as 18 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.³⁶
- In 2005, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 149,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oklahoma.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 420 children aged out of out-of-home care in Oklahoma.³⁸
- In 2005, 18,000 Oklahoma teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2005, 17% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 in Oklahoma needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2005, approximately 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2004, 31 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.15 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 13 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oklahoma, an 86% increase from 7 in 2003.⁴⁴
- In 2006, 20,192 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma, a 1.91% decrease from 19,813 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 726 were for violent crimes and 364 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,059 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Oklahoma spent \$203,121,755 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, and 36% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$129,862,389 in federal funds received for child welfare, 32% 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, 25% was from Medicaid, 18% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% was from TANF, and 6% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 11,393 children in out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2005, only 6,106 children, or 53.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

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OKLAHOMA'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 Oklahoma was \$24,000; the median income for a family of four was \$50,216.⁵³

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