

PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN 2008

Pennsylvania's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	12,440,621
Population, Children Under 18 ²	2,816,739
State Poverty Rate ³	11.3
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	15.6
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	20.3

All statistics are for 2006.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2005, 4,353 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 6.7% decrease from 2004. Of these children, 3.5% were neglected, 32.4% were physically abused, and 62.5% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2005, 40 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania.⁸
- In 2005, 21,691 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,944 children in 2004. In 2005, 26.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.9% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care in 2005, 40.4% were white, 46.9% black, 8.7% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 13,582 children exiting out-of-home care in 2005, 63.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2005, 2,065 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania, an 8.1% increase from 1,898 in 2004.¹²
- Of the 21,691 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 3,722, or 17.2%, were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 76,354 Pennsylvania grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 21,691 children in out-of-home care in 2005, 19.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Pennsylvania children in kinship care in 2005, 33.6% were white, 56.2% were black, 5.4% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.7% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Pennsylvania decreased from 238,608 in March 2006 to 149,196 in March 2007, a decrease of 36.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2007 was 61,948, a 36% decrease from March 2006.¹⁷

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- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Pennsylvania was at 39.2% of the federal poverty level.¹⁸
- In 2006, Pennsylvania spent \$993,770,890 in TANF funds, including 39.5% on basic assistance, 3.4% on transportation, 57.1% on nonassistance, and none on child care.¹⁹
- In 2006, Pennsylvania collected and distributed \$1,441,881,350 in child support funds, an increase of 2% from 2005.²⁰
- In 2006, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$757 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$14.57 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, Pennsylvania had an estimated monthly average of 72,600 children served by subsidized child care; 63,700 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 60,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2007, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Pennsylvania a family of three could make no more than \$33,200, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2007, Pennsylvania had 7,529 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2006, Head Start served 35,372 Pennsylvania children, a 9.6% decrease from 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, 905,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania, representing 47.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2004, 51,908 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania on the basis of being in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, Pennsylvania spent \$187,829,655 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,619 per foster care enrollee on Medicaid services.²⁸
- Pennsylvania reported spending \$2,527,987 of its total Medicaid spending in 2004 for children in foster care on targeted case management services.²⁹
- Pennsylvania reported spending \$16,718,041 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2004 for foster children on rehabilitative services.³⁰
- In 2006, Pennsylvania had 188,765 children enrolled in its Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a 4.75% increase from 2005, when 179,807 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2004, 11,804 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Pennsylvania a rank of 28 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2004, 1,049 infants younger than age 1 died in Pennsylvania, giving it a rank of 29 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

- In 2004, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Pennsylvania was 16.6 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 51.6. This reflects a total rate of 30.5 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2005, 16,559 adults and adolescents, as well as 88 children under the age of 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.³⁵
- In 2005, an estimated 82,000 children ages 12–17, and 543,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Pennsylvania.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2005, 949 children aged out of out-of-home care in Pennsylvania.³⁷
- In 2005, 39,000 Pennsylvania teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2005, 14% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2005, approximately 44,000 children ages 12–17 in Pennsylvania needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, approximately 55,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2004, 82 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.56 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2004, 87 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, a 235% increase from 26 in 2003.⁴³
- In 2006, 106,572 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, a 4.89% decrease from 101,608 arrests in 2005. Of the arrests in 2006, 5,546 were for violent crimes and 1,775 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,341 children in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Pennsylvania spent \$1,702,795,124 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 43% was from federal funds, 41% was from state funds, and 16% was from local funds.⁴⁶
- In 2004, of the \$736,980,525 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% came from the Social Services Block Grant, and 39% was from TANF.⁴⁷
- Out of 21,691 children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania in 2005, only 13,811 children, or 63.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁸

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PENNSYLVANIA'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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