

DELAWARE'S CHILDREN 2009

Delaware's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	864,764
Population, Children Under 18 ²	205,646
State Poverty Rate ³	9.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	11.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	14.6%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Delaware had 7,215 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,781 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 1,933 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Delaware, a rate of 9.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.4% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 842 were neglected, 372 were physically abused, and 165 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, one child in Delaware died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 1,074 children in Delaware lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 962 children in 2005. In 2006, 29.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 29.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Delaware children in out-of-home care in 2006, 34.6% were white, 56.0% black, 7.8% Hispanic, 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 791 children exiting out-of-home care in Delaware in 2006, 66% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 94 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Delaware, a 21% increase from 78 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 1,074 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 304 or 28.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 8,225 Delaware grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,074 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 6.5% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Delaware children in kinship care in 2006, 38.6% were white, 45.7% were black, 14.3% were Hispanic, and 1.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Delaware increased from 8,403 in March 2007 to 8,496 in March 2008, an increase of 1.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 4,096, a 1.7% increase from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Delaware was at 34.0% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Delaware spent \$76,634,656 in TANF funds, including 23.9% on basic assistance, 12.20% on child care, 16.8% on transportation, and 47.0% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Delaware spent \$8,039,196 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 20,426 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Delaware collected and distributed \$70,738,973 in child support funds, a 1.4% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Delaware was \$864 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.61 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Delaware had a monthly average of 7,500 children served by subsidized child care; 6,900 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 6,400 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Delaware, a family of three could make no more than \$34,344, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Delaware had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,071 Delaware children, a 7.7% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 76,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware—43.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 1,904 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Delaware on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, Delaware had 5,069 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.6% increase from 2006, when 4,844 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2007, Delaware had 16,000 uninsured children, representing 7.5% of its child population.³¹
- In 2005, 1,106 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Delaware a rank of 10 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2005, 105 infants under age 1 died in Delaware, giving it a rank of 10 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Delaware was 23 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76. This reflects a total rate of 44 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2006, 3,547 adults and adolescents, as well as 26 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Delaware.³⁵
- In 2006, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 54,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Delaware.³⁶



VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 72 children aged out of out-of-home care in Delaware.³⁷
- In 2007, 4,000 Delaware teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2007, 8% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.³⁹
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2006, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 in Delaware needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2005, five Delaware children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.09 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Delaware, a 67% decrease from six in 2004.⁴⁴
- In 2007, 7,321 children younger than 18 were arrested in Delaware, a 1.7% decrease from 7,448 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 548 were for violent crimes and 127 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁵
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 303 children in juvenile correction facilities in Delaware.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Delaware spent \$53,238,947 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 23% was from federal funds, and 77% from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2006, of the \$12,283,977 in federal funds received for child welfare, 62% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 11% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 11% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 3% from TANF.⁴⁸
- Out of 1,074 children in out-of-home care in Delaware in 2006, only 184, or 17.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

DELAWARE'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

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