

CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2009

Connecticut's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	3,502,309
Population, Children Under 18 ²	820,216
State Poverty Rate ³	8.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	12.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	8.7%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Connecticut had 44,298 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 28,500 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 10,174 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Connecticut, a rate of 12.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 10.9% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 9,285 were neglected, 633 were physically abused, and 452 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, three children in Connecticut died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 7,448 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,032 children in 2005. In 2006, 26.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Connecticut children in out-of-home care in 2006, 32.9% were white, 30.6% black, 30.2% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,970 children exiting out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2006, 59% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 649 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 12% decrease from 740 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 7,448 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,600 or 21.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 20,254 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,448 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 18.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care in 2006, 31.4% were white, 33.6% were black, 28.5% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.4% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut increased from 34,635 in March 2007 to 39,204 in March 2008, an increase of 13.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 18,960, an 8.6% increase from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Connecticut was at 45.5% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Connecticut spent \$469,128,109 in TANF funds, including 26.5% on basic assistance, 0.71% on child care, 0.4% on transportation, and 71.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Connecticut spent \$30,796,917 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 53,205 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Connecticut collected and distributed \$245,655,157 in child support funds, a 3.1% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut was \$1,098 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$21.11 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Connecticut had a monthly average of 10,100 children served by subsidized child care; 9,600 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 10,300 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$38,726, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Connecticut had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 7,076 Connecticut children, a 1.8% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 283,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut—54.1% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 6,588 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 6,588 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 74 received Targeted Case Management services, and none received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Connecticut had 17,200 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 20.7% increase from 2006, when 14,251 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Connecticut had 43,000 uninsured children, representing 5.2% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 3,317 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Connecticut a rank of 20 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 243 infants under age 1 died in Connecticut, giving it a rank of 19 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Connecticut was 12 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 41. This reflects a total rate of 23 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵



- Cumulative through 2006, 14,716 adults and adolescents, as well as 183 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 268,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 25 children aged out of out-of-home care in Connecticut.³⁸
- In 2007, 8,000 Connecticut teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 6% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 11% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 in Connecticut needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 15 Connecticut children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.54 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, five children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Connecticut, the same as in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 18,702 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 23.2% increase from 15,185 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,028 were for violent crimes and 325 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 498 children in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Connecticut spent \$685,981,827 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 58% was from federal funds, and 42% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$400,258,865 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 6% from Medicaid, 1% from the Social Services Block Grant, 34% from TANF, and 2% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,448 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2006, only 2,620, or 35.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



CONNECTICUT'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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²
- 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.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Connecticut was \$51,437; the median income for a family of four in Connecticut was \$86,001.⁵⁴

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