

MARYLAND'S CHILDREN 2009

Maryland's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	5,618,344
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,358,797
State Poverty Rate ³	8.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	11.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	10.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	8.0%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 11,505 children in Maryland lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,867 children in 2005. In 2006, 24.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 27.6% were 16 or older.⁷
- Of Maryland children in out-of-home care in 2006, 21.7% were white, 72.0% black, 1.8% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.4% children of other races and ethnicities.⁸

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,329 children exiting out-of-home care in Maryland in 2006, 46% were reunited with their parents or other family members.⁹
- In 2006, 364 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maryland, a 41% decrease from 620 in 2005.¹⁰
- Of the 11,505 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 2,279 or 19.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹¹
- In 2007, approximately 42,717 Maryland grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹²
- Of the 11,505 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 10.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹³
- Of all Maryland children in kinship care in 2006, 22.6% were white, 67.9% were black, 2.8% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.4% were other races.¹⁴

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maryland increased from 40,158 in March 2007 to 42,550 in March 2008, an increase of 6.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 18,634, a 3.8% increase from March 2007.¹⁵
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maryland was at 41.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁶
- In 2006, Maryland spent \$357,073,217 in TANF funds, including 29.8% on basic assistance, 0.04% on child care, and 69.9% on nonassistance.¹⁷
- In 2007, Maryland spent \$53,273,131 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 123,868 participants.¹⁸



- In 2007, Maryland collected and distributed \$474,869,470 in child support funds, a 2.8% increase from 2006.¹⁹
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maryland was \$1,102 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$21.19 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²⁰

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Maryland had a monthly average of 22,900 children served by subsidized child care; 20,500 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 24,000 in 2004.²¹
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maryland, a family of three could make no more than \$29,990, which is equivalent to 40% of the state's median income.²²
- As of early 2008, Maryland had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²³
- In 2007, Head Start served 10,347 Maryland children, a 1.3% decrease from 2001.²⁴

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 470,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland—54.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁵
- In 2005, 18,176 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Maryland on the basis of being in foster care.²⁶
- In 2005, of the 18,176 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 104 received Targeted Case Management services, and 601 received Rehabilitative Services.²⁷
- In 2007, Maryland had 104,870 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.3% increase from 2006, when 101,552 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2007, Maryland had 146,000 uninsured children, representing 10.5% of its child population.²⁹
- In 2005, 6,844 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maryland a rank of 35 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁰
- In 2005, 547 infants under age 1 died in Maryland, giving it a rank of 32 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³¹
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Maryland was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 56. This reflects a total rate of 32 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³²
- Cumulative through 2006, 30,252 adults and adolescents, as well as 319 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maryland.³³
- In 2006, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17, and 340,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maryland.³⁴

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 116 children aged out of out-of-home care in Maryland.³⁵
- In 2007, 22,000 Maryland teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁶



- In 2007, 8% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.³⁷
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁸
- In 2006, approximately 21,000 children ages 12–17 in Maryland needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁹
- In 2006, approximately 24,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2005, 38 Maryland children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.37 per 100,000 children.⁴¹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 37 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maryland, a 21% decrease from 47 in 2004.⁴²
- In 2007, 47,646 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maryland, a 3.5% decrease from 49,359 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 3,437 were for violent crimes and 1,387 were for possession of a weapon.⁴³
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,104 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maryland.⁴⁴

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Maryland spent \$498,274,967 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 41% was from federal funds, 59% from state funds, and 0.6% from local funds.⁴⁵
- In 2006, of the \$202,761,076 in federal funds received for child welfare, 61% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 13% from Medicaid, 10% from the Social Services Block Grant, 12% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.⁴⁶
- Out of 11,505 children in out-of-home care in Maryland in 2006, only 1,398, or 12.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁷

MARYLAND'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.⁴⁸
- 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.⁴⁹



- 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.⁵⁰

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