

# MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN 2009

## Minnesota's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	5,197,621
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,260,282
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	13.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	11.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	13.1%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Minnesota had 56,802 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,846 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 7,623 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Minnesota, a rate of 6.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 10.3% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 5,779 were neglected, 1,194 were physically abused, and 920 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 14 children in Minnesota died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 7,156 children in Minnesota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,978 children in 2005. In 2006, 28.0% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.7% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Minnesota children in out-of-home care in 2006, 47.5% were white, 20.4% black, 7.6% Hispanic, 12.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.3% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,248 children exiting out-of-home care in Minnesota in 2006, 66% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 664 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Minnesota, a 9% decrease from 732 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 7,156 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 1,406 or 19.6% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 24,654 Minnesota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 7,156 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 22.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Minnesota children in kinship care in 2006, 39.5% were white, 22.7% were black, 7.4% were Hispanic, 15.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 15.0% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Minnesota decreased from 63,354 in March 2007 to 47,742 in March 2008, a decrease of 24.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 21,564, an 18.7% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Minnesota was at 42.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Minnesota spent \$402,737,483 in TANF funds, including 32.1% on basic assistance, and 67.9% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Minnesota spent \$59,239,544 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 134,671 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, Minnesota collected and distributed \$596,202,761 in child support funds, a 2.1% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota was \$764 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$14.69 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Minnesota had a monthly average of 27,300 children served by subsidized child care; 25,500 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 22,100 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Minnesota, a family of three could make no more than \$30,048, which is equivalent to 46% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, Minnesota had 3,785 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 10,332 Minnesota children, a 1.7% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 925,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota—52.3% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 9,970 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Minnesota on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 9,970 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 4,745 received Targeted Case Management services, and 106 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, Minnesota had 2,458 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.3% increase from 2006, when 2,229 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, Minnesota had 80,000 uninsured children, representing 6.4% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 4,628 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Minnesota a rank of 24 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 362 infants under age 1 died in Minnesota, giving it a rank of 23 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Minnesota was 13 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 46. This reflects a total rate of 26 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>



- Cumulative through 2006, 4,817 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Minnesota.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 42,000 children ages 12–17, and 415,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Minnesota.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 698 children aged out of out-of-home care in Minnesota.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 9,000 Minnesota teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 4% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 10% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 18,000 children ages 12–17 in Minnesota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 63 Minnesota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.25 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 11 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Minnesota, an 8% decrease from 12 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 49,839 children younger than 18 were arrested in Minnesota. Of these arrests, 1,234 were for violent crimes and 767 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,623 children in juvenile correction facilities in Minnesota.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Minnesota spent \$531,983,539 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 33% was from federal funds, 17% from state funds, and 50.3% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$176,223,335 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 32% from Medicaid, 11% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 9% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 7,156 children in out-of-home care in Minnesota in 2006, only 2,025, or 28.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## MINNESOTA'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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Minnesota was \$29,268; the median income for a family of four in Minnesota was \$76,733.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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