

# NEW YORK'S CHILDREN 2009

## New York's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	19,297,729
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	4,413,414
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	14.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	20.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	19.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	15.1%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 80,077 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New York, a rate of 17.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 13.0% increase from 2005. Of these children, 73,269 were neglected, 8,484 were physically abused, and 2,710 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 73 children in New York died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 29,973 children in New York lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 30,420 children in 2005. In 2006, 25.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 28.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of New York children in out-of-home care in 2006, 19.2% were white, 47.8% black, 20.3% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.4% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 13,289 children exiting out-of-home care in New York in 2006, 50% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 2,810 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New York, an 18% decrease from 3,407 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 29,973 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 8,435 or 28.1% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 132,010 New York grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 29,973 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 17.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all New York children in kinship care in 2006, 8.0% were white, 56.8% were black, 25.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.9% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New York decreased from 269,095 in March 2007 to 257,416 in March 2008, a decrease of 4.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 117,356, a 4.2% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in New York was at 54.8% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>



- In 2006, New York spent \$4,240,956,313 in TANF funds, including 38.3% on basic assistance, 2.40% on child care, and 52.2% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, New York spent \$272,094,470 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 482,787 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, New York collected and distributed \$1,510,321,473 in child support funds, a 3.7% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New York was \$1,198 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$23.03 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, New York had a monthly average of 123,700 children served by subsidized child care; 127,600 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 140,100 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New York, a family of three could make no more than \$34,340, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, New York had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 48,818 New York children, a 0.3% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 2,100,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New York—41.3% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 61,160 children were enrolled in Medicaid in New York on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 61,160 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 1,529 received Targeted Case Management services, and 9,093 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, New York had 394,164 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.4% increase from 2006, when 388,689 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, New York had 395,000 uninsured children, representing 8.9% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 20,420 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving New York a rank of 48 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 1,431 infants under age 1 died in New York, giving it a rank of 47 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 New York was 14 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 46. This reflects a total rate of 27 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 174,908 adults and adolescents, as well as 2,354 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in New York.<sup>36</sup>



- In 2006, an estimated 126,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,269,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New York.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 1,551 children aged out of out-of-home care in New York.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 62,000 New York teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 7% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 14% 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 66,000 children ages 12–17 in New York needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 82,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 87 New York children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.62 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 41 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New York, a 5% decrease from 43 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 46,232 children younger than 18 were arrested in New York, a 4.1% decrease from 48,209 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 3,090 were for violent crimes and 757 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,197 children in juvenile correction facilities in New York.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW YORK'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, New York spent \$1,932,987,349 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 51% was from federal funds, and 49% from state funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$984,765,670 in federal funds received for child welfare, 59% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 12% from the Social Services Block Grant, 23% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 29,973 children in out-of-home care in New York in 2006, only 12,095, or 40.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## NEW YORK'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>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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