

# OHIO'S CHILDREN 2009

## Ohio's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	11,466,917
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	2,751,874
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	12.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	19.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	16.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	19.4%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 41,449 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Ohio, a rate of 15.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.4% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 22,507 were neglected, 9,214 were physically abused, and 7,283 were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 74 children in Ohio died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 16,631 children in Ohio lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 17,442 children in 2005. In 2006, 32.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 22.4% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of Ohio children in out-of-home care in 2006, 51.1% were white, 41.7% black, 2.9% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.1% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

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

- Of the 11,285 children exiting out-of-home care in Ohio in 2006, 46% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2006, 1,803 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Ohio, a 12% decrease from 2,044 in 2005.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 16,631 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 4,120 or 24.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 90,447 Ohio grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 16,631 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 15.4% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Ohio children in kinship care in 2006, 50.2% were white, 42.3% were black, 3.1% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.3% were other races.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Ohio increased from 165,530 in March 2007 to 173,264 in March 2008, an increase of 4.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 80,250, a 3.4% increase from March 2007.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Ohio was at 39.4% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2006, Ohio spent \$1,120,054,520 in TANF funds, including 29.5% on basic assistance, and 69.5% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Ohio spent \$122,014,284 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 281,638 participants.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Ohio collected and distributed \$1,704,625,248 in child support funds, a 0.6% increase from 2006.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio was \$680 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.07 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>22</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Ohio had a monthly average of 39,900 children served by subsidized child care; 46,600 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 53,800 in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Ohio, a family of three could make no more than \$31,764, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.<sup>24</sup>
- As of early 2008, Ohio had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 37,940 Ohio children, a 0.3% decrease from 2001.<sup>26</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 1,117,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio—53.2% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2005, 36,837 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Ohio on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, of the 36,837 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 174 received Targeted Case Management services, and 12,707 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, Ohio had 140,547 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.3% decrease from 2006, when 142,374 children were enrolled.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, Ohio had 239,000 uninsured children, representing 8.6% of its child population.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, 12,882 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Ohio a rank of 44 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 1,225 infants under age 1 died in Ohio, giving it a rank of 45 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Ohio was 20 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>34</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 14,957 adults and adolescents, as well as 138 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Ohio.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 79,000 children ages 12–17, and 831,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Ohio.<sup>36</sup>



## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 1,255 children aged out of out-of-home care in Ohio.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2007, 34,000 Ohio teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 6% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 40,000 children ages 12–17 in Ohio needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 50,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2005, 101 Ohio children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.09 per 100,000 children.<sup>43</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 53 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Ohio, a 47% increase from 36 in 2004.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2007, 40,970 children younger than 18 were arrested in Ohio, a 6.4% increase from 38,509 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 1,158 were for violent crimes and 539 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>45</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,149 children in juvenile correction facilities in Ohio.<sup>46</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Ohio spent \$1,106,670,844 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 60% was from federal funds, 13% from state funds, and 27.2% from local funds.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$664,106,329 in federal funds received for child welfare, 68% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 26% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 1% from TANF.<sup>48</sup>
- Out of 16,631 children in out-of-home care in Ohio in 2006, only 9,884, or 59.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>49</sup>

## OHIO'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>50</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>51</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>52</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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