

TEXAS'S CHILDREN 2009

Texas's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	23,904,380
Population, Children Under 18 ²	6,623,366
State Poverty Rate ³	16.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	25.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	22.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.6%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Texas had 201,110 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 166,728 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 69,065 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Texas, a rate of 10.6 per 1,000 children, representing an 11.4% increase from 2005. Of these children, 51,073 were neglected, 15,409 were physically abused, and 7,406 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 257 children in Texas died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 30,848 children in Texas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 28,883 children in 2005. In 2006, 43.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Texas children in out-of-home care in 2006, 32.0% were white, 22.8% black, 40.2% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 14,695 children exiting out-of-home care in Texas in 2006, 38% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 3,409 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Texas, a 7% increase from 3,181 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 30,848 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 14,646 or 47.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 281,681 Texas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 30,848 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 26.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Texas children in kinship care in 2006, 31.0% were white, 24.5% were black, 39.3% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.1% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Texas decreased from 134,362 in March 2007 to 116,201 in March 2008, a decrease of 13.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 52,582, a 12.7% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Texas was at 32.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹



- In 2006, Texas spent \$731,033,975 in TANF funds, including 19.0% on basic assistance, 0.1% on transportation, and 73.9% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Texas spent \$334,541,901 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 900,396 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Texas collected and distributed \$2,233,345,738 in child support funds, an 11.5% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Texas was \$781 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.02 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Texas had a monthly average of 126,200 children served by subsidized child care; 123,400 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 119,000 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Texas, a family of three could make no more than \$25,755-41,063, which is equivalent to 53-85% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Texas had 22,369 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 67,630 Texas children, a 0.1% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 2,572,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas—64.5% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 46,060 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 46,060 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 25,292 received Targeted Case Management services, and 2,486 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Texas had 326,635 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.3% increase from 2006, when 293,342 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Texas had 1,435,000 uninsured children, representing 21.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 31,956 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Texas a rank of 49 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 2,537 infants under age 1 died in Texas, giving it a rank of 49 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 Texas was 36 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 101. This reflects a total rate of 62 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 69735 adults and adolescents, as well as 392 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Texas.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 151,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,544,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Texas.³⁷



VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 1,399 children aged out of out-of-home care in Texas.³⁸
- In 2007, 116,000 Texas teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 18% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 84,000 children ages 12–17 in Texas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 99,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 207 Texas children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.83 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 120 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Texas, a 15% increase from 104 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 166,976 children younger than 18 were arrested in Texas, a 1.5% decrease from 169,460 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 4,881 were for violent crimes and 1,673 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 8,247 children in juvenile correction facilities in Texas.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TEXAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Texas spent \$1,015,726,824 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, 34% from state funds, and 1.5% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$652,113,490 in federal funds received for child welfare, 36% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 15% from Medicaid, 37% from TANF, and 4% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 30,848 children in out-of-home care in Texas in 2006, only 17,906, or 58.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

TEXAS'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 Texas was \$25,632; the median income for a family of four in Texas was \$54,554.⁵⁴

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