



S O U T H D A K O T A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

South Dakota's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	804,194
Population, Children Under 18 ²	197,758
State Poverty Rate ³	13.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	20.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	17.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	21.2%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, South Dakota had 14,481 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3,627 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 1,485 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in South Dakota, a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.9% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 1,235 were neglected, 117 were physically abused, and 42 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 8 children in South Dakota died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 1,566 children in South Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,648 children in 2006. In 2007, 615 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 178 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of South Dakota children in out-of-home care in 2007, 30.1% were white, 3.3% black, 6.4% Hispanic, 52.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,407 children exiting out-of-home care in South Dakota in 2007, 59.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 160 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in South Dakota, a 6.7% increase from 150 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 1,566 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 452 or 28.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 5,516 South Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,566 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 18.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all South Dakota children in kinship care in 2007, 27.9% were white, 1.4% were black, 4.4% were Hispanic, 58.5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.8% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in South Dakota increased from 5,673 in March 2008 to 5,756 in March 2009, an increase of 1.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 2,841, a 1.8% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in South Dakota was at 41.8% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, South Dakota spent \$28,595,143 in TANF funds, including 43.9% on basic assistance, 2.8% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 25% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, South Dakota spent \$10,249,696 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 22,609 participants.²¹
- In 2008, South Dakota collected and distributed \$74,123,877 in child support funds, an increase of 11.2% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in South Dakota was \$600 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$11.54 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, South Dakota had a monthly average of 5,100 children served by subsidized child care; 4,900 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 4,700 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in South Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$36,675, which is equivalent to 69% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, South Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,827 South Dakota children, a 3.4% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 70,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in South Dakota—59.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 5,371 children were enrolled in Medicaid in South Dakota on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 5,371 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,729 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, South Dakota had 11,531 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.5% increase from 2007, when 11,136 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, South Dakota had 20,000 uninsured children, representing 10.1% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 836 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving South Dakota a rank of 14 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 82 infants under age 1 died in South Dakota, giving it a rank of 26 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in South Dakota was 19 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 72. This reflects a total rate of 40 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 270 adults and adolescents, as well as 5 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in South Dakota.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 38,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in South Dakota.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 95 children aged out of out-of-home care in South Dakota.³⁸
- In 2008, 3,000 South Dakota teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 3,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 10,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in South Dakota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 20 South Dakota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 8.62 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 0 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in South Dakota, a 100% decrease from 2 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 5,793 children younger than 18 were arrested in South Dakota, a 58.1% increase from 3,665 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 54 were for violent crimes and 57 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 597 children in juvenile correction facilities in South Dakota.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, South Dakota spent \$56,619,931 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 56% was from federal funds, 44% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$31,510,445 in federal funds received for child welfare, 27% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 16% was from Medicaid, 21% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 26% was from TANF, and 6% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,566 children in out-of-home care in South Dakota in 2007, only 500, or 31.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

SOUTH DAKOTA'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 that child and family.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 South Dakota was not available, but the median income for a family of four in South Dakota was \$59,718.⁵⁴
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