



T E N N E S S E E ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Tennessee's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	6,214,888
Population, Children Under 18 ²	1,478,901
State Poverty Rate ³	15.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	21.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	19.6%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	26.5%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- Tennessee was one of several states without a final tally of 2007 referrals for child abuse and neglect.⁷
- In 2007, 16,059 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Tennessee, a rate of 10.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 16.3% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 6,604 were neglected, 3,974 were physically abused, and 3,676 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 44 children in Tennessee died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 7,751 children in Tennessee lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,618 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,115 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,389 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Tennessee children in out-of-home care in 2007, 61.4% were white, 29.3% black, 2.7% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.1% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,969 children exiting out-of-home care in Tennessee in 2007, 47.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 1,214 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Tennessee, a 22.1% increase from 994 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 7,751 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,622 or 20.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 71,305 Tennessee grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 7,751 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 10.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Tennessee children in kinship care in 2007, 66.0% were white, 24.8% were black, 2.9% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.3% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Tennessee increased from 131,024 in March 2008 to 145,786 in March 2009, an increase of 11.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 57,248, a 10.4% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Tennessee was at 27.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Tennessee spent \$284,052,414 in TANF funds, including 32.1% on basic assistance, 4.4% on child care, 1.8% on transportation, and 62% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Tennessee spent \$87,957,478 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 169,432 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Tennessee collected and distributed \$534,929,835 in child support funds, an increase of 11.0% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Tennessee was \$668 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.84 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Tennessee had a monthly average of 40,400 children served by subsidized child care; 42,500 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 43,200 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Tennessee, a family of three could make no more than \$30,312, which is equivalent to 60% of the state's median income.²⁵
- In 2009, Tennessee again froze intakes for child care assistance. Currently it only provides this assistance to families with a connection to the TANF program, including caretakers in TANF child-only cases who are employed full-time, and teenage parents in school.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 16,397 Tennessee children, a 0.3% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 709,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Tennessee—47.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 18,397 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Tennessee on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 18,397 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 0 received Targeted Case Management services, and 182 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Tennessee had 53,064 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 67.8% increase from 2007, when 31,619 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Tennessee had 139,000 uninsured children, representing 9.4% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 8,108 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Tennessee a rank of 44 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 733 infants under age 1 died in Tennessee, giving it a rank of 47 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 Tennessee was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 101. This reflects a total rate of 55 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 13,114 adults and adolescents, as well as 59 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Tennessee.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 41,000 children ages 12–17, and 281,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Tennessee.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 739 children aged out of out-of-home care in Tennessee.³⁸
- In 2008, 23,000 Tennessee teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 32,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 95,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 21,000 children ages 12–17 in Tennessee needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 26,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 51 Tennessee children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.03 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 31 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Tennessee, an 18.4% decrease from 38 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 35,507 children younger than 18 were arrested in Tennessee, a 1.0% decrease from 35,880 arrests in 2007. Of the

arrests in 2008, 1,663 were for violent crimes and 604 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,419 children in juvenile correction facilities in Tennessee.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Tennessee spent \$522,904,871 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 45% was from federal funds, 55% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$236,389,877 in federal funds received for child welfare, 25% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 49% was from Medicaid, 15% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 7,751 children in out-of-home care in Tennessee in 2007, only 3,216, or 41.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

TENNESSEE'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 Tennessee was \$23,880; the median income for a family of four in Tennessee was \$56,052.⁵⁴
-

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2008). *Table GCT-T1: Population Estimates: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=01000US&-_box_head_nbr=GCT-T1&-ds_name=PEP_2008_EST&-_lang=en&-format=US-40&-_sse=on. Washington, DC: Author.
2. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *2008 American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Population Profiles: 2008*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS. Washington, DC: Author.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2008*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new46_100125_01.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
4. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2008: People Under 18 Years of Age*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new46_100125_03.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
5. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Poverty Status by State: 2008: Related Children 5 to 17 Years of Age*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new46_100125_02.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
6. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *2008 American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Population Profiles: 2008*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS. Washington, DC: Author.
7. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2009). *Child Maltreatment 2007: Reports From the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved October 6, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/table2_1.htm. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
8. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2009). *Child Maltreatment 2007: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System*. Retrieved October 6, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/table3_3.htm and www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/table3_8.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
9. Ibid., retrieved October 6, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm07/table4_1.htm.
10. Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.
11. *Other races and ethnicities* includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Hawaiian Native, unknown or unable to determine, missing data, and two or more races. CWLA, special tabulation from AFCARS.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *2008 American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2008*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&state=adp&q_r_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_DP2&-_lang=en&-_ts=272978192013. Washington, DC: Author.
16. Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.
17. Ibid.
18. U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2009). *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Separate State Program—Maintenance of Effort Aid to Families with Dependant Children: Caseload Data*. Retrieved December 11, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/caseload/caseload_current.htm#2009. Washington, DC: HHS.
19. Calculations by CWLA, based on: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program: Sixth Annual Report to Congress*. Retrieved February 2, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data-reports/annual-report6/ar6index.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
- U.S. Food and Nutrition Service. (2005). Food Stamp Program—Annual State Level Data—State Level Participation. *Characteristics of Food Stamp Households: FY 2003*. Retrieved February 2, 2009, from www.fns.usda.gov/oane/menu/Published/SNAP/FILES/Participation/2003Characteristics.htm. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2003). *The 2003 HHS Poverty Guidelines*. Retrieved February 2, 2009, from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/03poverty.htm>. Washington, DC: HHS.
20. Administration for Children and Families. (2008). *Combined Spending of Federal and State Funds Expended in FY 2007*. Retrieved October 7, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/2007/tableF_2007.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
21. Food and Nutrition Service. (2009). *WIC Program: Food Cost*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from [www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood$.htm). Washington, DC: USDA.
- Food and Nutrition Service. (2009). *WIC Program: Total Participation*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.fns.usda.gov/pd/26wifypart.htm. Washington, DC: USDA.
22. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2009). *Preliminary Data Report FY 2008 (Preliminary)*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2009/reports/preliminary_report_fy2008/state.html. Washington,

DC: HHS.

23. National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2009). *Out of Reach*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2009/data.cfm?getstate=on&state=_all&CFID=39961440&CFTOKEN=15638621. Washington, DC: Author.
24. Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2009). *FFY 2007 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates); Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf_data/07acf800_preliminary/table1.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2008). *FFY 2006 CCDF Data Tables (Final, July 2008); Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved November 10, 2008, www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf_data/06acf800/table1.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2007). *FFY 2005 CCDF Data Tables and Charts; Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved November 22, 2008, www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/data/ccdf_data/05acf800/table1.htm. Washington, DC: HHS.
25. Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2009). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2009: Most States Hold the Line, But Some Lose Ground in Hard Times*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.nwlc.org/pdf/nwlcstatechildcareassistancepolicies2009.pdf. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
26. Ibid.
27. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. (2008). *Head Start Program Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2008*. Retrieved October 6, 2008, www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/about/fy2008.html. Washington, DC: HHS.
28. Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. (n.d.). *State Medicaid Fact Sheets*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.state-healthfacts.org/medicaid.jsp. Menlo Park, CA: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.
29. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.). Medicaid Statistical Information System. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from <http://msis.cms.hhs.gov>. Washington, DC: HHS.
30. Ibid.
31. Smith, V., Roberts, D., Marks, C., & Rousseau, D. (2009). *CHIP Enrollment: June 2008 Data Snapshot*. Retrieved October 14, 2009, from www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7642-03.pdf. Washington, DC: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.
32. U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/health/h05_000.htm. Washington, DC: Author.
33. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Low birth weight babies: Number: 2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=15&dtm=273&tf=17>. Baltimore: Author.
Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Low birth weight babies: Percent: 2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=v&order=a&ind=15&dtm=274&tf=17>. Baltimore: Author.
34. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Infant Mortality: Number: 2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=20&dtm=282&tf=17>. Baltimore: Author.
Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Infant Mortality: Rate: 2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=v&order=a&ind=20&dtm=283&tf=17>. Baltimore, MD: Author.
35. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teen Births, by Age Group, Rate per 1,000: 2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?ind=2>. Baltimore: Author.
36. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2007. Vol. 19*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2007report/table16.htm. Atlanta: Author.
37. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies. (2009). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2006–2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from www.oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm. Rockville, MD: Author.
38. Children who age out of foster care are captured by the AFCARS emancipation data element. Children who exit care to emancipation are those who reach the age of majority according to state law by virtue of age, marriage, etc. CWLA, Special AFCARS tabulation.
39. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teens who are high school dropouts: Number: 2008*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=73&dtm=380&tf=35>. Baltimore: Author.
40. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Teens not attending school and not working: Percent: 2008*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=35&dtm=309&tf=35>. Baltimore: Author.
41. Annie E. Casey Foundation (2009). *Kids Count. State Level Data Online: Comparisons by Topic: Persons Age 18–24 not attending school,*

- not working, and no degree beyond high school: Percent 2007*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=37&dtm=313&tf=18>. Baltimore: Author.
42. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies. (2009). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2006–2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from www.oas.samhsa.gov/statesList.cfm.
 43. Ibid.
 44. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2009). *Injury Mortality Reports, 1999–2006*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 45. Ibid.
 46. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2009). *Crime in the United States 2008 (Table 69)*. Retrieved October 21, 2009, from www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html. Washington, DC: Author.
Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2008). *Crime in the United States 2007 (Table 69)*. Retrieved November 5, 2008, www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_69.html. Washington, DC: Author.
 47. Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., & Kang, W. (2008). *Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook*. Retrieved November 5, 2008, www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/State_Adj.asp. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
 48. Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency.
DeVooght, K., Allen, T., & Geen, R. (2008). *Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2006*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
 49. Ibid.
 50. Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.
 51. U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved January 27, 2009, from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf. Washington, DC: Author.
 52. Ibid.
 53. Ibid.
 54. CWLA. (2006). *State Child Welfare Agency Survey*. Washington, DC: Author.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2005). *Median Income for 4-Person Families, by State*. Retrieved October 3, 2006, www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/4person.html. Washington, DC: Author.