



TEXAS' S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Texas's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	24,326,974
Population, Children Under 18 ²	6,726,259
State Poverty Rate ³	15.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	23.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	21.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	26.1%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Texas had 202,015 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 166,584 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 71,111 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Texas, a rate of 10.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.0% increase from 2006. Of these children, 46,806 were neglected, 9,817 were physically abused, and 5,205 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 228 children in Texas died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 30,137 children in Texas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 30,848 children in 2006. In 2007, 13,089 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 3,280 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Texas children in out-of-home care in 2007, 30.5% were white, 23.5% black, 40.6% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.3% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 15,847 children exiting out-of-home care in Texas in 2007, 36.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 4,080 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Texas, a 19.7% increase from 3,409 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 30,137 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 13,552 or 45.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 298,793 Texas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 30,137 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 29.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Texas children in kinship care in 2007, 28.9% were white, 25.0% were black, 40.6% were Hispanic, <.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.4% 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 116,201 in March 2008 to 103,746 in March 2009, a decrease of 10.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 46,867, a 10.9% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- 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 2007, Texas spent \$789,679,357 in TANF funds, including 13.9% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, <1% on transportation, and 80% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Texas spent \$397,961,910 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 934,597 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Texas collected and distributed \$2,558,700,378 in child support funds, an increase of 14.6% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Texas was \$800 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$15.38 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Texas had a monthly average of 132,000 children served by subsidized child care; 126,200 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 123,400 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Texas, a family of three could make no more than \$42,703, which is equivalent to 85% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Texas had 25,049 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 2006, 2,663,300 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas—64.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 60,144 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Texas on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 60,144 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 36,123 received Targeted Case Management services, and 3,605 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Texas had 504,959 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 54.6% increase from 2007, when 326,635 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Texas had 1,217,000 uninsured children, representing 17.9% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 33,727 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Texas a rank of 29 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 2,486 infants under age 1 died in Texas, giving it a rank of 19 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 Texas was 36 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 107. This reflects a total rate of 63 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 72,434 adults and adolescents, as well as 394 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Texas.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 158,000 children ages 12–17, and 984,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Texas.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 1,440 children aged out of out-of-home care in Texas.³⁸
- In 2008, 105,000 Texas teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 119,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 419,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 90,000 children ages 12–17 in Texas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 104,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 194 Texas children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.59 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 127 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Texas, a 5.8% increase from 120 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 171,536 children younger than 18 were arrested in Texas, a 2.7% increase from 166,976 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 4,900 were for violent crimes and 1,641 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% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 15% was from Medicaid, 0% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 37% was from TANF, and 4% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 30,137 children in out-of-home care in Texas in 2007, only 16,208, or 53.8%, 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 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 Texas was \$25,632; the median income for a family of four in Texas was \$56,606.⁵⁴

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