



VERMONT'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Vermont's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	621,270
Population, Children Under 18 ²	128,999
State Poverty Rate ³	9.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁵	8.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	16.3%

*All statistics are for 2008.

- In 2007, Vermont had 12,327 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 2,564 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 872 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Vermont, a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.3% increase from 2006. Of these children, 14 were neglected, 390 were physically abused, and 408 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 3 children in Vermont died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 1,309 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,379 children in 2006. In 2007, 281 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 427 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Vermont children in out-of-home care in 2007, 94.0% were white, 3.2% black, 1.0% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.8% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 661 children exiting out-of-home care in Vermont in 2007, 52.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 195 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Vermont, an 18.9% increase from 164 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 1,309 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 257 or 19.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 3,150 Vermont grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,309 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 12.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Vermont children in kinship care in 2007, 96.2% were white, 1.9% were black, 0.0% were Hispanic, 0.0% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.9% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Vermont decreased from 8,858 in March 2008 to 6,024 in March 2009, a decrease of 32.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 2,765, a 26.6% decrease from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Vermont was at 53.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Vermont spent \$70,091,837 in TANF funds, including 44.1% on basic assistance, 0.0% on child care, 8.8% on transportation, and 47% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Vermont spent \$9,645,819 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 16,702 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Vermont collected and distributed \$49,064,167 in child support funds, an increase of 4.9% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Vermont was \$914 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$17.57 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Vermont had a monthly average of 6,100 children served by subsidized child care; 6,800 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 6,100 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than \$35,484, which is equivalent to 62% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Vermont had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 1,552 Vermont children, a 1.3% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 67,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont—42.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 2,643 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 2,643 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 726 received Targeted Case Management services, and 0 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Vermont had 3,215 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 14.0% increase from 2007, when 2,820 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Vermont had 5,000 uninsured children, representing 3.9% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 447 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Vermont a rank of 8 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 36 infants under age 1 died in Vermont, giving it a rank of 7 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 Vermont was 8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 39. This reflects a total rate of 21 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 468 adults and adolescents, as well as 6 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Vermont.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12–17, and 31,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Vermont.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 67 children aged out of out-of-home care in Vermont.³⁸
- In 2008, 1,000 Vermont teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 2,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 5,000 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 Vermont needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 3,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 3 Vermont children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.85 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 1 child under age 18 was killed in firearm homicides in Vermont, an increase from 0 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 1,403 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont, a 23.6% decrease from 1,836 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 47 were for violent crimes and 15 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 54 children in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Vermont spent \$86,882,407 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 58% was from federal funds, 42% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$50,793,267 in federal funds received for child welfare, 37% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 42% was from Medicaid, 10% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 2% was from TANF, and 7% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,309 children in out-of-home care in Vermont in 2007, only 689, or 52.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

VERMONT'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 Vermont was \$34,611; the median income for a family of four in Vermont was \$62,938.⁵⁴

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