

OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

Oklahoma's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	3,791,508	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	23.4%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	935,633	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	21.1%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	17.2%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	27.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Oklahoma had 67,266 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,736 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 7,836 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Oklahoma, a rate of 8.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.4% increase from 2010. Of these children, 77.5% were neglected, 29.7% were physically abused, and 8.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 40.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Oklahoma responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 25,167 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 38 children in Oklahoma died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 8,280 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,857 children in 2010. In 2011, 3,815 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 483 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 29.7% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Oklahoma children in out-of-home care in 2011, 38.4% were white, 13.1% black, 14.9% Hispanic, 9.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 24.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,352 children exiting out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2011, 49.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 1,294 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oklahoma, a 20.5% decrease from 1,628 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 8,280 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,913 or 35.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 44,344 Oklahoma grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 8,280 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,343 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Oklahoma children in kinship care in 2010, 11.0% were white, 3.8% black, 3.8% Hispanic, 2.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3.8% of more than one race or ethnicity.²¹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oklahoma decreased from 21,235 in 2010 to 20,217 in 2011, an decrease of 4.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 8,956, a 4.9% decrease from 2010.²²

- From 2009-10, for every 100 Oklahoma families living in poverty, only 10 received TANF benefits.²³
- In 2011, \$172,633,114 was spent in Oklahoma on TANF assistance, including 13% on basic assistance, 7% on child care, 15% on transportation, and 60% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 47,922,051 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Oklahoma, serving 99,234 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Oklahoma distributed \$300,859,429 in child support funds, a 7.9% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Oklahoma, 101,469 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 28% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Oklahoma had a monthly average of 26,400 children served by subsidized child care; 22,600 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 24,700 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100, which is equivalent to 68% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Oklahoma had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 14,506 Oklahoma children, a 7.7% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 392,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma—63% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Oklahoma had 120,501 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.9% decrease from 2010, when 122,874 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Oklahoma had 60,000 uninsured children, representing 6% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 4,458 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Oklahoma.³⁵
- In 2010, 371 infants under age 1 died in Oklahoma.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Oklahoma was 26 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 84. This reflects a total rate of 50 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 5,810 adults and adolescents, as well as 27 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Oklahoma.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 22,000 children ages 12–17 and 263,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oklahoma.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 326 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Oklahoma.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 19,000 Oklahoma teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 70,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 in Oklahoma needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁴

- In 2010, 32 Oklahoma children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.07 per 100,000 children.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 48 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oklahoma, a 2% increase from 47 in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 13,878 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma, a 15.0% decrease from 16,365 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 532 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 639 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma.⁴⁸

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁹

- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 8,280 children in out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2011, only 3,217, or 39%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Oklahoma spent \$245,105,811 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$160,901,049 was from federal funds, \$84,204,762 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$160,901,049 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$69,896,214 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$5,569,454 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$30,820,637 was from Medicaid, \$24,657,639 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$20,254,850 was from TANF, and \$9,702,255 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Oklahoma received \$32,043,480 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$11,609,316 for maintenance payments, \$14,751,944 for administration and child placement, \$2,033,676 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$3,465,741 for training.⁵⁶
- Oklahoma received \$29,881,099 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$24,803,924 for assistance payments, \$3,673,482 for administration and child placement, and \$1,403,693 for staff and provider training.⁵⁷

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Tom Coburn (R)	172 Russell	224-5754	224-6008	Coburn.senate.gov	2016
James M. Inhofe (R)	205 Russell	224-4721	228-0380	Inhofe.senate.gov	2014
House:					
Jim Bridenstine (R-1 st)	216 Cannon	225-2211	225-9187	Bridenstein.hpuse.gov	2014
Markwayne Mullin (R-2 nd)	1113 Longworth	225-2701	225-3038	Mullin.house.gov	2014
Frank D. Lucas (R-3 rd)	2311 Rayburn	225-5565	225-8698	House.gov/lucas	2014
Tom Cole (R-4 th) <i>Appropriations</i>	2458 Rayburn	225-6165	225-3512	Cole.house.gov	2014
James Lankford (R-5 th)	228 Cannon	225-2132	226-1463	Lankford.house.gov	2014

Key Committee Jurisdictions

Senate **H.E.L.P.:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF

House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice

House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF

House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

⁵ Ibid.

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⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹⁶ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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²⁰ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²¹ Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

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Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2010 TANF Financial Data: Table B.2: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Assistance in FY2011*. Retrieved December 21, 2011 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

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Food and Nutrition Service. (2013). *Program Data: WIC Program: Total Participation*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/26wifypart.htm>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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³⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 20-Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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⁴³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁹ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.