

WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN 2003

State Population (2001)¹

5,987,973*

State Population, Children Under 18 (2000)²

1,513,843*

State Poverty Rate (2001)³

9.1%

State Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2001)⁴

13.2%

State Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 (2001)⁵

12.1%

*Estimated

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, 24,406 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Washington State, a rate of 16.1 per 1,000 children.⁶
- In 2000, 7,095 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Washington State, a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 children—a 12% decrease from 1999. Of every 1,000 children, 3.3 were neglected, 1.0 were physically abused, and 0.3 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2000, 14 children died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- On September 30, 2000, 8,945 children in Washington State lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,688 children on September 30, 1999. In 2000, 38.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.1% were 16 or older.⁹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individual TANF recipients in Washington State declined from 143,649 in December 2001 to 132,435 in June 2002, a decrease of 7.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in June 2002 was 52,634, a 5.9% decrease from December 2001.¹⁰
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Washington State was 27% below the federal poverty level.¹¹
- In 2000, Washington State spent \$530,635,423 in TANF funds, including 58.6% on cash assistance.¹²
- In 2000, 7,845 children needed paternity determination services to receive child support.¹³
- In 2002, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Washington State was \$768 per month, or 71.4% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage.¹⁴

CHILD CARE, HEALTH, AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- In 1999, 46,130 Washington State children were in subsidized child care—15% of all eligible children.¹⁵
- In 2001, 11,106 Washington State children were served by Head Start, a 7.4% increase from 2000.¹⁶
- In 1999, 91.8% of high school seniors graduated in Washington State, compared with 92% in 1998.¹⁷
- In 1998, 572,927 children under 21 were enrolled in Medicaid—62.6% of the state's total enrollees.¹⁸
- In 2001, Washington State had 7,621 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program—a 65.7% increase from 2000, when 2,616 children were enrolled.¹⁹
- In 2000, the rate of births to teen mothers was 18 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁰
- As of December 2001, 9,971 adults and adolescents, as well as 34 children under age 13, were living with HIV/AIDS in Washington State.²¹
- In 2000, an estimated 94,245 residents age 12 or older needed alcohol or substance abuse treatment in Washington State.²²

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 7,129 children exiting out-of-home care in 2000, 66.3% were reunited with their birthfamilies.²³
- Of the 8,945 children in out-of-home care in 2000, 29.5% were living with relatives while in care.²⁴
- In 2001, 1,110 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Washington State, a .17% increase from 2000.²⁵
- In 2001, more than 33,624 Washington State grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.²⁶

For additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes, visit CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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