

COLORADO'S CHILDREN 2004

Colorado's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	4,506,542
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	1,128,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	9.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	12.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	13.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	14.4%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 21,169 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Colorado, a rate of 18.8 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 4,837 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Colorado, a rate of 4.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 35% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 1.8 were neglected, 1.1 were physically abused, and 0.5 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 20 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Colorado.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 7,138 children in Colorado lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,533 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 24.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.5% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 5,539 white children, 1,142 black children, 2,099 Hispanic children, 160 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 157 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,200 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 69% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 610 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Colorado, a 33% increase from 458 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 7,138 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 2,059 or 29% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 7,138 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 9% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 29,506 Colorado grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Colorado increased from 32,099 in March 2002 to 34,862 in March 2003, an increase of 8.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 13,321, an 8.4% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Colorado was 43% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Colorado spent \$233,234,757 in TANF funds, including 22.6% on cash assistance, 1.1% on transportation and support activities, and 76.3% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Colorado collected and distributed \$189,729,840 in child support funds, an increase of 7.7% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Colorado was \$847 per month, or 103% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.²¹

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 24,500 of Colorado's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 24,900 in 2000 and 23,800 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 62% of Colorado's median income, or \$32,916, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Colorado had 567 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Colorado closed enrollment for the child care assistance program and developed waiting lists in five large counties.²⁵
- In 2002, Head Start served 9,872 Colorado children, a 0.5% increase from 2001.²⁶
- In 2000, 75% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Colorado had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁷

H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2000, 210,330 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Colorado, representing 20% of Colorado's total enrollees.²⁸
- In 2002, Colorado had 51,826 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 13.2% increase from 2001, when 45,773 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2001, 112 babies in Colorado were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 7,169—a rate of 46 births per 1,000 girls.³⁰
- As of December 2002, 7,682 adults and adolescents, as well as 31 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Colorado.³¹
- In 2002, 51 Colorado children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.04 per 100,000 children in the population.³²
- In 2001, an estimated 21,000 children ages 12–17, and 69,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³³

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, 17 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Colorado, an 89% increase from 9 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2002, 44,035 children younger than 18 were arrested in Colorado, a 25% decrease from 58,476 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 10,300 were for violent crimes and 608 were for possession of a weapon.³⁵
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,979 children in juvenile correction facilities in Colorado.³⁶

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R C O L O R A D O ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Colorado spent \$359,733,736 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 48% came from federal funds, 38% from state funds, and 15% from local funds.³⁸
- In 2000, of the \$171,965,803 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 4% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 33% from Medicaid, and 35% from the Social Services Block Grant.³⁹
- Of the 7,138 children in out-of-home care in Colorado on September 30, 2001, only 2,634, or 36.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

COLORADO'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.⁴¹
- In 2002, the median income in Colorado for a family of four was \$66,624.⁴²

Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.

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