

IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2004

Idaho's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	1,341,131
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	375,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	11.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	15.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	12.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	17.0%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 7,076 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Idaho, a rate of 18.9 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 3,557 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 9.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 12% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 5.9 were neglected, 1.9 were physically abused, and 0.8 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, four children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Idaho.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 1,114 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,034 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 31.7% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 14.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 984 white children, 25 black children, 137 Hispanic children, 100 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 5 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,084 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 81% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 132 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 181% increase from 47 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 1,114 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 368 or 33% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 1,114 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 13% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 10,007 Idaho 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 Idaho increased from 2,416 in March 2002 to 3,204 in March 2003, an increase of 32.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 1,713, a 22.9% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Idaho was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Idaho spent \$39,369,908 in TANF funds, including 12.6% on cash assistance, 0.5% on transportation and support activities, and 86.9% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Idaho collected and distributed \$87,410,927 in child support funds, an increase of 16.4% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$527 per month, or 64% 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 9,700 of Idaho's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 8,300 in 2000 and 7,600 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 51% of Idaho's median income, or \$20,472, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2002, Head Start served 3,347 Idaho children, a 15.8% increase from 2001.²⁴
- In 2000, 77% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Idaho had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁵

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, 98,995 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho, representing 26.2% of Idaho's total enrollees.²⁶
- In 2002, Idaho had 16,895 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 27.3% increase from 2001, when 13,276 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2001, 21 babies in Idaho were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 2,203—a rate of 41 births per 1,000 girls.²⁸
- As of December 2002, 544 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Idaho.²⁹
- In 2002, 24 Idaho children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 5.77 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁰
- In 2001, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 17,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

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, two children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, compared with none in 2000.³²
- In 2002, 16,699 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, a 24% decrease from 22,047 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 4,004 were for violent crimes and 185 were for possession of a weapon.³³
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 360 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.³⁴

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 I D A H O ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Idaho spent \$46,941,508 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁵ Of this amount, 73% came from federal funds, and 27% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁶
- In 2000, of the \$34,187,708 in federal funds received for child welfare, 26% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 7% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 21% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 46% from TANF.³⁷
- Of the 1,114 children in out-of-home care in Idaho on September 30, 2001, only 476, or 42.7%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁸

IDAHO'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.³⁹
- In 2000, a caseworker in Idaho responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 15 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 15 families. In-home services include parent support programs, child day care, community-based counseling, and other services to enable children to live safely in their own homes.⁴⁰
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Idaho was \$30,285.⁴¹
- In 2002, the median income in Idaho for a family of four was \$53,722.⁴²

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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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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