

MONTANA'S CHILDREN 2004

Montana's Children At a Glance

State Population (2002) ¹	909,453
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	230,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	13.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	18.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	16.9%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	28.1%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 9,281 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Montana, a rate of 40.4 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 1,533 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Montana, a rate of 8.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 54% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 3.1 were neglected, 4.5 were physically abused, and 1.3 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, four children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Montana.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 2,008 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,180 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 30.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 1,199 white children, 24 black children, 78 Hispanic children, 680 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 105 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,497 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 59% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 275 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, a 92% increase from 143 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 2,008 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 1,163 or 58% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 2,008 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 32% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 7,555 Montana 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 Montana increased from 17,110 in March 2002 to 18,074 in March 2003, an increase of 5.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 6,421, a 5.9% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Montana was 34% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Montana spent \$60,666,713 in TANF funds, including 51.9% on cash assistance, 0.1% on transportation and support activities, 4.5% on a range of other services, and 43.6% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Montana collected and distributed \$41,027,136 in child support funds, an increase of 0.7% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Montana was \$537 per month, or 65% 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 7,200 of Montana's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 6,900 in 2000 and 6,400 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 51% of Montana's median income, or \$21,948, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Montana will freeze child care provider rates and quality improvement projects at FY 2002 levels to compensate for the \$302,000 decrease in state general funds for child care.²⁴
- In 2002, Head Start served 2,982 Montana children, a 0.4% increase from 2001.²⁵
- In 2000, 79% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Montana had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁶

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, 50,883 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana, representing 21.2% of Montana's total enrollees.²⁷
- In 2002, Montana had 13,875 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.6% increase from 2001, when 13,518 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2001, 11 babies in Montana were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 1,258—a rate of 36 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 356 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Montana.³⁰
- In 2002, 11 Montana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 4.41 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2001, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17, and 13,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

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, three children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Montana, compared with three in 2000 as well.³³
- In 2002, 5,953 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana, a 125% increase from 2,643 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 1,656 were for violent crimes and 23 were for possession of a weapon.³⁴
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 246 children in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.³⁵

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 M O N T A N A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Montana spent \$39,851,000 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁶ Of this amount, 47% came from federal funds, 46% from state funds, and 7% from local funds.³⁷
- In 2000, of the \$18,811,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 70% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 8% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 11% from the Social Services Block Grant, 7% from TANF, and 4% from other federal sources.³⁸
- Of the 2,008 children in out-of-home care in Montana on September 30, 2001, only 686, or 34.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.³⁹

MONTANA'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.⁴⁰
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Montana was \$25,975.⁴¹
- In 2002, the median income in Montana for a family of four was \$46,142.⁴²

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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