

NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN 2004

North Carolinás ChildrenAt a Glance	
State Population (2002) ¹	8,320,146
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	1,991,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	14.3%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	20.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5–17 (2002) ⁵	18.7%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	22.4%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 60,888 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in North Carolina, a rate of 30.6 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 36,601 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Carolina, a rate of 18.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 1% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 16.5 were neglected, 0.7 were physically abused, and 0.6 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 24 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in North Carolina.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 10,130 children in North Carolina lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,847 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 30.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.6% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 4,840 white children, 4,783 black children, 632 Hispanic children, 213 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 294 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,239 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 56% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 1,327 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Carolina, a 91% increase from 694 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 10,130 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 4,886 or 48% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 10,130 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 18% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 79,048 North Carolina 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 North Carolina declined from 91,274 in March 2002 to 83,906 in March 2003, a decrease of 8.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 40,441, a 6.2% decrease from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in North Carolina was 50% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, North Carolina spent \$471,348,002 in TANF funds, including 29.4% on cash assistance and 70.6% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, North Carolina collected and distributed \$430,346,008 in child support funds, an increase of 8.8% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Carolina was \$603 per month, or 73% 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 81,700 of North Carolina's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 82,700 in 2000 and 69,300 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 75% of the North Carolina's median income, or \$34,224, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, North Carolina had 22,616 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- Due to the state budget shortfall, North Carolina had to reduce all programs by 4%, including Smart Start, a program that provides services to children from birth to age 5 and their families.²⁵
- In 2002, Head Start served 19,202 North Carolina children, a 1.1% increase from 2001.²⁶
- In 2000, 74% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in North Carolina 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, 650,895 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Carolina, representing 34.1% of North Carolina's total enrollees.²⁸
- In 2002, North Carolina had 120,090 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 21.7% increase from 2001, when 98,650 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2001, 269 babies in North Carolina were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 14,336—a rate of 55 births per 1,000 girls.³⁰
- As of December 2002, 12,264 adults and adolescents, as well as 120 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in North Carolina.³¹
- In 2002, 57 North Carolina children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.54 per 100,000 children in the population.³²
- In 2001, an estimated 24,000 children ages 12–17, and 102,000 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, 18 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in North Carolina, a 36% decrease from 28 in 2000.³⁴
- In 2002, 45,879 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Carolina, a 17% decrease from 55,594 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 14,336 were for violent crimes and 1,178 were for possession of a weapon.³⁵
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,429 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Carolina.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 N O R T H C A R O L I N A ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, North Carolina spent \$277,965,088 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 63% came from federal funds, 15% from state funds, and 21% from local funds.³⁸
- In 2000, of the \$176,396,019 in federal funds received for child welfare, 40% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, and 8% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.³⁹
- Of the 10,130 children in out-of-home care in North Carolina on September 30, 2001, only 4,504, or 44.5%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁰

N O R T H C A R O L I N A ' S C H I L D W E L F A R E W O R K F O R C E

- 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 2000, a caseworker in North Carolina responsible for investigating and assessing child abuse and neglect carried an estimated caseload of 11 families. A caseworker responsible for providing in-home services carried an estimated caseload of 12 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.⁴²
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in North Carolina was \$15,000.⁴³
- In 2002, the median income in North Carolina for a family of four was \$57,203.⁴⁴

**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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C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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