

# P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 0 4

<b>Pennsylvania's Children At a Glance</b>	
State Population (2002) <sup>1</sup> .....	12,335,091
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) <sup>2</sup> .....	2,912,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) <sup>3</sup> .....	9.5%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) <sup>4</sup> .....	13.8%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) <sup>5</sup> .....	13.1%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) <sup>6</sup> .....	16.2%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 23,012 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Pennsylvania, a rate of 7.9 per 1,000 children.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, 4,784 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Pennsylvania, a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 4% decrease from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 0.1 were neglected, 0.6 were physically abused, and 0.8 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, 48 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Pennsylvania.<sup>9</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 21,237 children in Pennsylvania lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,631 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 23.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 19.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- On September 30, 2001, 9,231 white children, 10,942 black children, 1,944 Hispanic children, 32 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 1,032 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.<sup>11</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 11,730 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 68% were reunited with their families.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2001, 1,564 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Pennsylvania, a 2% increase from 1,526 in 1997.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 21,237 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 6,710 or 32% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 21,237 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 18% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2002, more than 89,760 Pennsylvania grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Pennsylvania declined from 213,984 in March 2002 to 207,429 in March 2003, a decrease of 3.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 80,028, a 2.3% decrease from March 2002.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Pennsylvania was 39% below the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2002, Pennsylvania spent \$1,062,998,879 in TANF funds, including 31.8% on cash assistance, 1.9% on transportation and support activities, and 66.4% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2001, Pennsylvania collected and distributed \$1,252,202,021 in child support funds, an increase of 7.3% from 2000.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Pennsylvania was \$681 per month, or 83% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

# 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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## **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 65,100 of Pennsylvania's children received subsidized child care, a decrease from 81,300 in 2000 and 83,900 in 1999.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 58% of the Pennsylvania's median income, or \$29,256, to be eligible for subsidized child care.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2001, Pennsylvania had 2,599 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.<sup>24</sup>
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Pennsylvania implemented a waiting list at the end of 2001. The 2002–2003 budget reflects a decrease in the amount of TANF funds transferred to child care.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2002, Head Start served 30,986 Pennsylvania children, a 0.4% decrease from 2001.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2000, 80% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Pennsylvania had at least a high school degree or equivalent.<sup>27</sup>

## **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, 804,004 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Pennsylvania, representing 27.7% of Pennsylvania's total enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2002, Pennsylvania had 148,689 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 5.3% increase from 2001, when 141,163 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2001, 262 babies in Pennsylvania were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 13,567—a rate of 34 births per 1,000 girls.<sup>30</sup>
- As of December 2002, 27,796 adults and adolescents, as well as 340 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2002, 79 Pennsylvania children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.46 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2001, an estimated 38,000 children ages 12–17, and 144,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>33</sup>

## **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, 19 children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Pennsylvania, a 42% decrease from 33 in 2000.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2002, 100,243 children younger than 18 were arrested in Pennsylvania, an 8% decrease from 108,494 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 19,298 were for violent crimes and 1,144 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>35</sup>
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 3,819 children in juvenile correction facilities in Pennsylvania.<sup>36</sup>

## **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 P E N N S Y L V A N I A ' S C H I L D R E N**

- In 2000, Pennsylvania spent \$1,242,805,776 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.<sup>37</sup> Of this amount, 47% came from federal funds, 39% from state funds, and 14% from local funds.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2000, of the \$581,481,573 in federal funds received for child welfare, 56% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 2% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 2% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 40% from TANF.<sup>39</sup>
- Of the 21,237 children in out-of-home care in Pennsylvania on September 30, 2001, only 13,359, or 62.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>40</sup>

## PENNSYLVANIA'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.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, the median income in Pennsylvania for a family of four was \$65,411.<sup>42</sup>

**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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