

KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN 2006

Kentucky's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	4,145,922
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	980,187
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	17.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	23.8
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	21.5

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 47,526 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 45,348 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 18,178 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kentucky, a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.3% increase from 2002. Of these children, 79.2% were neglected, 17.5% were physically abused, and 5.9% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 6 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kentucky.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 6,895 children in Kentucky lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,814 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 26.8% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.6% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Kentucky children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 74.6% were white, 17.5% were black, 0.7% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.1% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,984 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 68.5% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 612 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kentucky, a 9.5% increase from 559 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 6,895 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 2,039 or 29.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 37,732 Kentucky grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 6,895 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 10.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Kentucky children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 78.1% were white, 15.1% were black, and 6.7% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kentucky decreased from 78,520 in March 2004 to 75,375 in March 2005, a decrease of 4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 34,864, a 2.7% decrease from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kentucky was at 33.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Kentucky spent \$196,429,589 in TANF funds, including 54% on basic assistance, 7% on child care, 2.4% on transportation, and 36.7% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Kentucky collected and distributed \$322,100,896 in child support funds, an increase of 14.6% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kentucky was \$532 per month, or 64.6% 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 2004, an estimated monthly average of 34,300 of Kentucky's children received subsidized child care; 39,900 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 39,100 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kentucky, a family of three could make no more than \$23,505, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Kentucky had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 16,071 Kentucky children, a 0.1% decrease from 2003.²⁵

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

- In 2001, 382,700 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 50.2% of the total number of enrollees in Kentucky.²⁶
- In 2001, 8,761 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 2.3% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Kentucky.²⁷
- Kentucky spent \$8,123 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Kentucky had 94,500 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.5% increase from 2003, when 94,053 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Kentucky was 24.7 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 86.5 births. This reflects a total rate of 49.6 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 4,162 adults and adolescents, as well as 30 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Kentucky.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 27,000 children ages 12–17, and 246,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2004, 10% of Kentucky teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, the same as in 2000.³³
- In 2004, 11% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 16,000 children ages 12–17 in Kentucky needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 22 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.99 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁷

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 2002, 5 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kentucky, a 150% increase from 2 in 2001.³⁸

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- In 2004, 7,829 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kentucky, a 38.7% increase from 5,646 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 274 were for a violent crime and 90 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 990 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kentucky.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Kentucky spent \$331,951,216 for child welfare services. *Child welfare services* refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this number, 38.3% was from federal funds, and 61.7% was from state funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$127,241,464 in federal funds received for child welfare, 52.7% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 12.2% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 22.2% was from TANF, 2.5% came from Supplemental Security Income, 1.1% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 1.2% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 6,895 children in out-of-home care in Kentucky on September 30, 2003, only 3,534 children, or 51.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

KENTUCKY'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.⁴⁴
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁴⁵
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁴⁶
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Kentucky was \$28,371 ; the median income for a family of four in Kentucky was \$54,030.⁴⁷

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