

MISSOURI'S CHILDREN 2006

Missouri's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	5,754,618
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	1,384,542
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	12.2
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	17.7
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	17.0

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 55,633 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 55,580 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 10,183 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Missouri, a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.8% increase from 2002. Of these children, 50.4% were neglected, 27.9% were physically abused, and 27.9% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 45 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Missouri.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 11,900 children in Missouri lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 13,052 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 28.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.3% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Missouri children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 62.3% were white, 34.2% were black, 1.9% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.3% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,560 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 60.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 1,403 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Missouri, a 9% decrease from 1,542 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 11,900 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 3,527 or 29.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 42,299 Missouri grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 11,900 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 20.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Missouri children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 55% were white, 42.1% were black, 1.5% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.1% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Missouri decreased from 100,750 in March 2004 to 97,352 in March 2005, a decrease of 3.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 40,529, a 2.3% decrease from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Missouri was at 34.1% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Missouri spent \$300,307,514 in TANF funds, including 45.9% on basic assistance and 54.1% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Missouri collected and distributed \$449,718,615 in child support funds, an increase of 3.9% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Missouri was \$616 per month, or 74.8% 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 38,300 of Missouri's children received subsidized child care; 37,900 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 34,500 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Missouri, a family of three could make no more than \$17,784, which is equivalent to 35% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Missouri had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 17,473 Missouri children, a 0.6% 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, 562,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 54.5% of the total number of enrollees in Missouri.²⁶
- In 2001, 23,805 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 4.2% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri.²⁷
- Missouri spent \$5,969 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Missouri had 176,014 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 16.6% increase from 2003, when 150,954 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Missouri was 21.5 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 75.4 births. This reflects a total rate of 43.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 10,346 adults and adolescents, as well as 60 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Missouri.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 45,000 children ages 12–17, and 403,000 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, 7% of Missouri teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 36.4% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2004, 10% 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 23,000 children ages 12–17 in Missouri needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 30,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 37 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.35 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, 18 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Missouri, a 28% decrease from 25 in 2001.³⁸

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- In 2004, 36,935 children younger than 18 were arrested in Missouri, a 23.3% decrease from 48,176 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 1,542 were for a violent crime and 512 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,392 children in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MISSOURI'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Missouri spent \$487,278,630 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, 62.1% was from federal funds, and 37.8% was from state funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$302,682,132 in federal funds received for child welfare, 28.3% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10.1% was from Medicaid, 8.5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 8.8% was from TANF, 1.5% came from Supplemental Security Income, 1% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 37.6% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 11,900 children in out-of-home care in Missouri on September 30, 2003, only 3,835 children, or 32.2%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

MISSOURI'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 Missouri was \$24,132 ; the median income for a family of four in Missouri was \$59,764.⁴⁷

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