

NEW YORK'S CHILDREN 2006

New York's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	19,227,088
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	4,572,363
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	15.0
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	21.3
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	20.3

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, 75,784 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in New York, a rate of 16.7 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.1% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 90.4% were neglected, 12.8% were physically abused, and 4% were sexually abused.⁶
- In 2003, 62 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in New York.⁷
- On September 30, 2003, 37,067 children in New York lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 40,753 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 24.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 23.7% were 16 or older.⁸
- Of all New York children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 18.6% were white, 47.2% were black, 18.9% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 15% were of other races and ethnicities.⁹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 16,905 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 61.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁰
- In 2003, 3,862 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New York, a 1.9% increase from 3,791 in 2002.¹¹
- Of the 37,067 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 13,604 or 36.7% were waiting to be adopted.¹²

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 123,315 New York grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹³
- Of the 37,067 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 15.2% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁴
- Of all New York children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 5.9% were white, 57.4% were black, 23.4% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 13.2% were other races.¹⁵

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New York decreased from 340,261 in March 2004 to 322,681 in March 2005, a decrease of 5.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 141,446, a 4.6% decrease from March 2004.¹⁶
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in New York was at 56.8% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁷
- In 2004, New York spent \$4,195,899,100 in TANF funds, including 37.8% on basic assistance, 2.4% on child care, and 50.8% on nonassistance.¹⁸
- In 2004, New York collected and distributed \$1,312,113,067 in child support funds, a decrease of 2.2% from 2003.¹⁹

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- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New York was \$945 per month, or 98.4% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.00 per hour.²⁰

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 140,000 of New York's children received subsidized child care; 142,700 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 138,100 in 2002.²¹
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New York, a family of three could make no more than \$32,180, which is equivalent to 59% of the state's median income.²²
- In 2005, New York did not maintain children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²³
- In 2004, Head Start served 49,300 New York children, a 0.3% decrease from 2003.²⁴

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, 1,653,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 46.6% of the total number of enrollees in New York.²⁵
- In 2001, 79,418 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 4.8% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in New York.²⁶
- New York spent \$4,963 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁷
- In 2004, New York had 826,611 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.8% decrease from 2003, when 896,728 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New York was 14.9 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 48.1 births. This reflects a total rate of 28.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁹
- As of December 2003, 160,109 adults and adolescents, as well as 2,337 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in New York.³⁰
- In 2003, an estimated 135,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,279,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³¹

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

- In 2004, 8% of New York teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, an 11.1% decrease from 2000.³²
- In 2004, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³³
- In 2003, an estimated 78,000 children ages 12–17 in New York needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 84,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2002, 77 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.51 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁶

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, 33 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in New York, a 28% decrease from 46 in 2001.³⁷
- In 2004, 47,820 children younger than 18 were arrested in New York, a 5.9% increase from 45,172 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 2,798 were for a violent crime and 889 were for possession of a weapon.³⁸

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- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 4,593 children in juvenile correction facilities in New York.³⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW YORK'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, New York spent \$2,552,961,000 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, 54.3% was from federal funds, 27.6% was from state funds, and 18.1% was from local funds.⁴⁰
- In 2002, of the \$1,386,157,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 45.6% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 16% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 37.2% was from TANF, and 0.2% came from other federal sources.⁴¹
- Out of 37,067 children in out-of-home care in New York on September 30, 2003, only 21,272 children, or 57.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴²

NEW YORK'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.⁴³
- 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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵

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