

ILLINOIS' S CHILDREN 2007

Illinois's Children At a Glance

State Population ¹	12,763,371
Population, Children Under 18 ²	3,241,039
State Poverty Rate ³	11.5
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	16.4
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	14.8
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	19.6

All statistics are for 2005.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2004, 29,150 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Illinois, a rate of 9.0 per 1,000 children, and representing a 2.8% increase from 2003. Of these children, 63.5% were neglected, 28.3% were physically abused, and 20.3% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2004, 85 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Illinois.⁸
- On September 30, 2004, 19,931 children in Illinois lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 21,608 children on September 30, 2003. In 2004, 31.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.3% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of the children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 27.0% were white, 65.4% were black, 5.5% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% were children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,472 children exiting out-of-home care in 2004, 41.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2004, 2,227 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Illinois, a 21.3% decrease from 2,701 in 2003.¹²
- Of the 19,931 children in out-of-home care in 2004, 3,505 or 17.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2005, approximately 99,374 Illinois grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 19,931 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2004, 34.3% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Illinois children in kinship care on September 30, 2004, 25.1% were white, 68.0% were black, 5.1% were Hispanic, and 1.8% were of other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Illinois decreased from 97,736 in March 2005 to 91,857 in March 2006, a decrease of 6.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2006 was 37,019, a 5.0% decrease from March 2005.¹⁷

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- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Illinois was at 27.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Illinois spent \$981,154,770 in TANF funds, including 11.3% on basic assistance, 0.4% on transportation, and 88.4% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2005, Illinois collected and distributed \$561,787,781 in child support funds, an increase of 9.9% from 2004.²⁰
- In 2005, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Illinois was \$802 per month. The wage necessary to afford this two-bedroom apartment was \$15.43 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²¹

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2005, Illinois had an estimated monthly average of 84,000 children served by subsidized child care; 85,800 children received subsidized child care in 2004, and 85,700 in 2003.²²
- In 2006, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Illinois, a family of three could make no more than \$30,396, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2006, Illinois had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2005, Head Start served 39,640 Illinois children, a 0.1% decrease from 2004.²⁵

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2002, 1,090,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Illinois, representing 56.8% of the total number of enrollees.²⁶
- In 2001, 82,248 foster and adopted children were enrolled in Medicaid in Illinois, representing 7.9% of all children in Medicaid.²⁷
- In 2001, Illinois spent \$292,352,214 on Medicaid services for children in foster care, and \$3,555 on Medicaid services per foster care enrollee.²⁸
- Illinois reported spending \$8,077,312.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on targeted case management services for foster children.²⁹
- Illinois reported spending \$88,129,169.00 of its total Medicaid expenditures in 2001 on rehabilitative services for foster children.³⁰
- In 2005, Illinois had 281,432 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 20.3% increase from 2004, when 234,027 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2003, 15,081 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Illinois a ranking of 46 nationally in number of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2003, 1,412 infants younger than 1 year died in Illinois, giving the state a ranking of 46 nationally in infant mortality rates (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³

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- In 2004, the birth rate for teens age 15–17 in Illinois was 22.8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 66.6. This reflects a total rate of 40.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2004, 30,739 adults and adolescents, as well as 281 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Illinois.³⁵
- In 2004, an estimated 94,000 children age 12–17, and 624,000 adults 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Illinois.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2004, 1020 children aged-out of out-of-home care in Illinois.³⁷
- In 2004, 41,000 Illinois teens age 16–19 were high school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2004, 8% of teens age 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2004, approximately 50,000 children age 12–17 in Illinois needed, but had not received, treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2004, approximately 63,000 children age 12–17 needed, but had not received, treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2003, 50 children and youth younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.39 per 100,000 children.⁴²

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2003, 54 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Illinois, a 21% decrease from 68 in 2002.⁴³
- In 2005, 37,470 children younger than 18 were arrested in Illinois, a 2.4% increase from 36,581 arrests in 2004. Of the arrests in 2005, 3,565 were for violent crimes and 1,182 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁴
- A 2003 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,715 children in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois.⁴⁵

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ILLINOIS' S CHILDREN

- In 2004, Illinois spent \$1,243,211,566 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.⁴⁶ Of this amount, 55% was from federal funds, and 45% was from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2004, of the \$680,009,045 in federal funds received for child welfare, 57% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 3% was from Medicaid, 6% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 25% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.⁴⁸

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- Out of 19,931 children in out-of-home care in Illinois on September 30, 2004, only 10,042 , or 50.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹

ILLINOIS'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.⁵⁰
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have demonstrated clearly that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵¹
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/ foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; 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.⁵²

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