

# CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN 2009

## California's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	36,553,215
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	9,383,924
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	12.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	17.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	16.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	12.9%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, California had 336,595 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 225,911 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 89,500 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in California, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 6.1% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 64,206 were neglected, 11,076 were physically abused, and 6,584 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, 140 children in California died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 78,373 children in California lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 81,174 children in 2005. In 2006, 29.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.9% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of California children in out-of-home care in 2006, 22.8% were white, 25.1% black, 45.2% Hispanic, 0.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.1% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 40,144 children exiting out-of-home care in California in 2006, 58% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 7,364 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in California, a 2% decrease from 7,490 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 78,373 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 21,185 or 27.0% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 275,987 California grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 78,373 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 29.4% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all California children in kinship care in 2006, 18.4% were white, 28.3% were black, 47.4% were Hispanic, 0.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 5.2% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in California increased from 1,158,249 in March 2007 to 1,195,251 in March 2008, a 3.2% increase. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 485,193, a 2.8% increase from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in California was at 66.0% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, California spent \$6,280,374,921 in TANF funds, including 55.4% on basic assistance, 2.52% on child care, 1.9% on transportation, and 36.6% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, California spent \$608,765,814 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 1,378,794 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, California collected and distributed \$2,182,599,062 in child support funds, a 0.2% of decrease from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in California was \$1,249 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$24.01 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, California had a monthly average of 175,500 children served by subsidized child care; 140,700 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 160,100 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in California, a family of three could make no more than \$45,228, which is equivalent to 76% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, California had 204,063 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 98,353 California children, a 0.7% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 4,330,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in California—40.9% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 151,184 children were enrolled in Medicaid in California on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 151,184 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 28,931 received Targeted Case Management services, and 42,985 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, California had 986,311 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 14.6% increase from 2006, when 860,888 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, California had 1,013,000 uninsured children, representing 10.7% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 37,630 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving California a rank of 50 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 2,930 infants under age 1 died in California, giving it a rank of 50 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in California was 21 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 68. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>



- Cumulative through 2006, 142,254 adults and adolescents, as well as 664 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in California.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 256,000 children ages 12–17, and 2,599,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in California.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 3,889 children aged out of out-of-home care in California.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 144,000 California teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 8% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 15% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 144,000 children ages 12–17 in California needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 169,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 200 California children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.82 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 291 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in California, a 3% decrease from 301 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 233,558 children younger than 18 were arrested in California, a 0.8% increase from 231,735 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 17,416 were for violent crimes and 8,597 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 15,240 children in juvenile correction facilities in California.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, California spent \$4,399,479,000 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 47% was from federal funds, 31% from state funds, and 22.5% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$2,058,742,000 in federal funds received for child welfare, 64% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% from Medicaid, 16% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 14% from TANF.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 78,373 children in out-of-home care in California in 2006, only 34,497, or 44.0%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## CALIFORNIA'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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- 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 being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>53</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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