

FLORIDA'S CHILDREN 2009

Florida's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	18,251,243
Population, Children Under 18 ²	4,043,560
State Poverty Rate ³	12.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	17.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	16.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	15.0%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Florida had 255,779 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 151,822 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 134,567 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Florida, a rate of 33.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.0% increase from 2005. Of these children, 43,542 were neglected, 15,182 were physically abused, and 4,621 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 140 children in Florida died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 29,229 children in Florida lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 29,312 children in 2005. In 2006, 44.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 10.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Florida children in out-of-home care in 2006, 47.9% were white, 38.6% black, 10.6% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 21,238 children exiting out-of-home care in Florida in 2006, 51% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 3,046 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Florida, a 1% increase from 3,019 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 29,229 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 7,527 or 25.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 151,257 Florida grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 29,229 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 45.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Florida children in kinship care in 2006, 49.5% were white, 37.7% were black, 10.2% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.5% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Florida increased from 75,156 in March 2007 to 77,480 in March 2008, an increase of 3.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 48,114, a 1.6% increase from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Florida was at 32.6% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Florida spent \$808,417,556 in TANF funds, including 21.0% on basic assistance, 2.09% on child care, 0.1% on transportation, and 75.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Florida spent \$216,132,014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 420,514 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Florida collected and distributed \$1,153,348,047 in child support funds, a 2.0% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Florida was \$941 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$18.10 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Florida had a monthly average of 108,600 children served by subsidized child care; 116,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 105,200 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Florida, a family of three could make no more than \$26,400, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Florida had 47,603 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 35,457 Florida children, a 2.3% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 1,559,600 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Florida—52.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 49,476 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Florida on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 49,476 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 7,108 received Targeted Case Management services, and none received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Florida had 224,575 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 16.0% increase from 2006, when 193,639 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Florida had 785,000 uninsured children, representing 19.2% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 19,761 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Florida a rank of 47 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 1,629 infants under age 1 died in Florida, giving it a rank of 48 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Florida was 22 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 75. This reflects a total rate of 42 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵



- Cumulative through 2006, 104,084 adults and adolescents, as well as 1,530 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Florida.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 118,000 children ages 12–17, and 1,241,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Florida.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 1,488 children aged out of out-of-home care in Florida.³⁸
- In 2007, 81,000 Florida teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 10% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 15% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 69,000 children ages 12–17 in Florida needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 69,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 124 Florida children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.68 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 69 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Florida, a 25% increase from 55 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 120,190 children younger than 18 were arrested in Florida, a 0.8% decrease from 121,173 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 8,833 were for violent crimes and 1,959 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 7,302 children in juvenile correction facilities in Florida.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Florida spent \$1,003,537,213 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 50% was from federal funds, 50% from state funds, and 0.2% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$500,729,750 in federal funds received for child welfare, 40% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 6% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 19% from the Social Services Block Grant, 31% from TANF, and 4% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 29,229 children in out-of-home care in Florida in 2006, only 7,854, or 26.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



FLORIDA'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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²
- 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.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Florida was \$32,000; the median income for a family of four in Florida was \$58,605.⁵⁴

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