

IDAHO'S CHILDREN 2009

Idaho's Children At a Glance*

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| State Population ¹ | 1,499,402 |
| Population, Children Under 18 ² | 407,712 |
| State Poverty Rate ³ | 9.9% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴ | 12.6% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵ | 12.5% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶ | 14.4% |

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Idaho had 15,301 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,662 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 1,651 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Idaho, a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 13.7% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 1,249 were neglected, 264 were physically abused, and 78 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, one child in Idaho died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 1,850 children in Idaho lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,818 children in 2005. In 2006, 40.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Idaho children in out-of-home care in 2006, 70.6% were white, 1.4% black, 17.2% Hispanic, 6.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,471 children exiting out-of-home care in Idaho in 2006, 74% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 177 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Idaho, a 19% increase from 149 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 1,850 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 569 or 30.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 8,384 Idaho grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 1,850 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 22.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Idaho children in kinship care in 2006, 71.5% were white, 0.2% were black, 20.0% were Hispanic, 5.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.0% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Idaho decreased from 2,586 in March 2007 to 2,187 in March 2008, a decrease of 15.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 1,490, a 10.3% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Idaho was at 38.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Idaho spent \$38,925,727 in TANF funds, including 18.6% on basic assistance and 81.4% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Idaho spent \$14,661,269 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 38,087 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Idaho collected and distributed \$128,910,337 in child support funds, a 6.1% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Idaho was \$633 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.17 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Idaho had a monthly average of 9,900 children served by subsidized child care; 10,600 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 10,300 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Idaho, a family of three could make no more than \$20,472, which is equivalent to 46% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Idaho had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,943 Idaho children, a 1.8% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 143,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho—65.0% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 2,888 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Idaho on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 2,888 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 166 received Targeted Case Management services, and 527 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Idaho had 19,352 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 35.5% increase from 2006, when 14,287 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Idaho had 46,000 uninsured children, representing 11% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 1,538 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Idaho a rank of 12 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 141 infants under age 1 died in Idaho, giving it a rank of 12 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 Idaho was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 69. This reflects a total rate of 38 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 604 adults and adolescents, as well as 2 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Idaho.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 13,000 children ages 12–17, and 99,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Idaho.³⁷



VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 98 children aged out of out-of-home care in Idaho.³⁸
- In 2007, 6,000 Idaho teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 8% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 12% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 in Idaho needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 16 Idaho children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.55 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, five children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Idaho, a 150% increase from two in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 16,035 children younger than 18 were arrested in Idaho, an 11.8% increase from 14,339 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 234 were for violent crimes and 182 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 522 children in juvenile correction facilities in Idaho.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR IDAHO'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Idaho spent \$53,290,500 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 67% was from federal funds, and 33% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$35,884,848 in federal funds received for child welfare, 36% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 9% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 2% from Medicaid, 17% from the Social Services Block Grant, 33% from TANF, and 2% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 1,850 children in out-of-home care in Idaho in 2006, only 1,254, or 67.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

IDAHO'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 Idaho was \$31,720; the median income for a family of four in Idaho was \$53,376.⁵⁴

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