

ILLINOIS' S CHILDREN 2009

Illinois's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	12,852,548
Population, Children Under 18 ²	3,199,159
State Poverty Rate ³	10.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	14.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	13.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	13.4%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, 27,756 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Illinois, a rate of 8.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.4% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 18,876 were neglected, 6,857 were physically abused, and 4,974 were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2006, 58 children in Illinois died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁸
- In 2006, 18,371 children in Illinois lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 19,431 children in 2005. In 2006, 33.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 26.9% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of Illinois children in out-of-home care in 2006, 29.7% were white, 62.0% black, 5.8% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.2% children of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,533 children exiting out-of-home care in Illinois in 2006, 40% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2006, 1,740 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Illinois, a 5% decrease from 1,837 in 2005.¹²
- Of the 18,371 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 3,136 or 17.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹³
- In 2007, approximately 101,879 Illinois grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 18,371 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 34.8% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Illinois children in kinship care in 2006, 32.0% were white, 60.2% were black, 5.6% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.1% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Illinois decreased from 75,877 in March 2007 to 56,473 in March 2008, a decrease of 25.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 24,559, a 21.5% decrease from March 2007.¹⁷
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Illinois was at 26.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸



- In 2006, Illinois spent \$981,718,525 in TANF funds, including 12.6% on basic assistance, 0.5% on transportation, and 86.9% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2007, Illinois spent \$139,961,473 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 279,982 participants.²⁰
- In 2007, Illinois collected and distributed \$678,478,223 in child support funds, a 9.3% increase from 2006.²¹
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Illinois was \$844 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$16.23 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²²

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Illinois had a monthly average of 82,200 children served by subsidized child care; 84,000 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 85,800 in 2004.²³
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Illinois, a family of three could make no more than \$31,776, which is equivalent to 52% of the state's median income.²⁴
- As of early 2008, Illinois had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁵
- In 2007, Head Start served 39,640 Illinois children, a 0.4% increase from 2001.²⁶

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 1,275,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Illinois—53.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2005, 74,149 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Illinois on the basis of being in foster care.²⁸
- In 2005, of the 74,149 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 33,454 received Targeted Case Management services, and 6,220 received Rehabilitative Services.²⁹
- In 2007, Illinois had 175,145 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 15.8% decrease from 2006, when 151,253 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2007, Illinois had 210,000 uninsured children, representing 6.6% of its child population.³¹
- In 2005, 15,265 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Illinois a rank of 46 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³²
- In 2005, 1,328 infants under age 1 died in Illinois, giving it a rank of 46 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Illinois was 22 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 65. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁴
- Cumulative through 2006, 33,620 adults and adolescents, as well as 282 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Illinois.³⁵
- In 2006, an estimated 86,000 children ages 12–17, and 862,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Illinois.³⁶



VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 783 children aged out of out-of-home care in Illinois.³⁷
- In 2007, 45,000 Illinois teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁸
- In 2007, 8% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.³⁹
- In 2006, 14% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴⁰
- In 2006, approximately 45,000 children ages 12–17 in Illinois needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 58,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2005, 63 Illinois children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.67 per 100,000 children.⁴³

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 76 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Illinois, a 17% decrease from 92 in 2004.⁴⁴
- In 2007, 34,250 children younger than 18 were arrested in Illinois, a 1.4% increase from 33,775 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 3,098 were for violent crimes and 997 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 2,631 children in juvenile correction facilities in Illinois.⁴⁶

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ILLINOIS'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Illinois spent \$1,241,370,233 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 49% was from federal funds, and 51% from state funds.⁴⁷
- In 2006, of the \$602,811,625 in federal funds received for child welfare, 52% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 5% from Medicaid, 4% from the Social Services Block Grant, 31% from TANF, and 4% from other federal sources.⁴⁸
- Out of 18,371 children in out-of-home care in Illinois in 2006, only 8,481, or 46.2%, 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 clearly demonstrated 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 being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³

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