

# MAINE'S CHILDREN 2009

## Maine's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	1,317,207
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	279,467
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	10.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	14.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	12.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	15.9%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Maine had 18,434 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 5,949 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 3,548 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Maine, a rate of 12.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.9% increase from 2005. Of these children, 2,428 were neglected, 631 were physically abused, and 376 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, one child in Maine died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 2,076 children in Maine lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,309 children in 2005. In 2006, 29.6% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.4% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Maine children in out-of-home care in 2006, 81.6% were white, 2.2% black, 2.9% Hispanic, 1.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.1% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 967 children exiting out-of-home care in Maine in 2006, 36% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 331 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Maine, a 5% increase from 316 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 2,076 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 730 or 35.2% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 7,471 Maine grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 2,076 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 18.2% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Maine children in kinship care in 2006, 81.5% were white, 1.6% were black, 2.1% were Hispanic, 2.4% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 12.4% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Maine increased from 23,650 in March 2007 to 23,968 in March 2008, an increase of 1.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 8,940, a 0.04% increase from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Maine was at 41.0% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Maine spent \$108,093,342 in TANF funds, including 60.4% on basic assistance, 4.81% on child care, 8.4% on transportation, and 26.5% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Maine spent \$11,256,553 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 24,693 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, Maine collected and distributed \$101,355,354 in child support funds, a 0.2% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Maine was \$779 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$14.99 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Maine had a monthly average of 5,400 children served by subsidized child care; 5,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 4,000 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Maine, a family of three could make no more than \$40,828, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, Maine had 1,100 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 3,871 Maine children, a 2.2% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 121,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Maine—39.5% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, Maine had 13,346 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 9.2% decrease from 2006, when 14,705 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, Maine had 14,000 uninsured children, representing 5.1% of its child population.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2005, 957 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Maine a rank of 7 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>31</sup>
- In 2005, 97 infants under age 1 died in Maine, giving it a rank of 9 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Maine was 11 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 45. This reflects a total rate of 24 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>33</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 1,110 adults and adolescents, as well as 8 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Maine.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 11,000 children ages 12–17, and 99,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Maine.<sup>35</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 216 children aged out of out-of-home care in Maine.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, 4,000 Maine teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>37</sup>



- In 2007, 6% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2006, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 7,000 children ages 12–17 in Maine needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2005, six Maine children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.78 per 100,000 children.<sup>42</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, no children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Maine, the same as in 2004.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2007, 7,158 children younger than 18 were arrested in Maine, a 7.8% decrease from 7,765 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 86 were for violent crimes and 60 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>44</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 210 children in juvenile correction facilities in Maine.<sup>45</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MAINE'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Maine spent \$121,736,511 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 30% was from federal funds, and 70% from state funds.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$36,968,128 in federal funds received for child welfare, 66% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 8% from Medicaid, 10% from the Social Services Block Grant, and 8% from other federal sources.<sup>47</sup>
- Out of 2,076 children in out-of-home care in Maine in 2006, only 859, or 41.4%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>48</sup>

## MAINE'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>49</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>50</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>51</sup>
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Maine was \$28,831; the median income for a family of four in Maine was \$59,596.<sup>52</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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