

# NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN 2009

## North Dakota's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	639,715
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	142,809
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	9.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	12.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 <sup>5</sup> .....	9.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	17.2%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, North Dakota had 7,554 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3,791 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 1,438 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in North Dakota, a rate of 9.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 7.1% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 913 were neglected, 158 were physically abused, and 77 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, two children in North Dakota died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 1,331 children in North Dakota lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,364 children in 2005. In 2006, 27.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.0% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of North Dakota children in out-of-home care in 2006, 56.3% were white, 1.7% black, 6.7% Hispanic, 26.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.5% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

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

- Of the 881 children exiting out-of-home care in North Dakota in 2006, 48% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 150 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in North Dakota, a 1% decrease from 152 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 1,331 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 351 or 26.4% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 3,110 North Dakota grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 1,331 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 20.9% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all North Dakota children in kinship care in 2006, 59.4% were white, 0.7% were black, 6.1% were Hispanic, 24.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.7% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in North Dakota increased from 5,020 in March 2007 to 5,040 in March 2008, an increase of 0.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 2,006, a 0.5% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in North Dakota was at 45.5% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, North Dakota spent \$31,748,346 in TANF funds, including 33.1% on basic assistance, 2.61% on child care, 1.1% on transportation, and 37.2% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, North Dakota spent \$7,443,565 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 14,544 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, North Dakota collected and distributed \$70,957,415 in child support funds, a 3.7% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota was \$541 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$10.40 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, North Dakota had a monthly average of 4,000 children served by subsidized child care; 3,700 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 4,900 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in North Dakota, a family of three could make no more than \$29,556, which is equivalent to 59% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, North Dakota had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 2,353 North Dakota children, a 2.9% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 37,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota—51.1% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 2,048 children were enrolled in Medicaid in North Dakota on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 2,048 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 397 received Targeted Case Management services, and 864 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, North Dakota had 4,553 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.2% increase from 2006, when 4,454 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, North Dakota had 11,000 uninsured children, representing 7.9% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 535 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving North Dakota a rank of 2 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 50 infants under age 1 died in North Dakota, giving it a rank of 3 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 North Dakota was 14 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 50. This reflects a total rate of 30 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>



- Cumulative through 2006, 144 adults and adolescents, as well as one child younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in North Dakota.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2006, an estimated 5,000 children ages 12–17, and 50,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in North Dakota.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 61 children aged out of out-of-home care in North Dakota.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 1,000 North Dakota teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 4% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 7% 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 2,000 children ages 12–17 in North Dakota needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 17 North Dakota children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 9.39 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, one child under age 18 was killed in a firearm homicide in North Dakota, the same as in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 6,651 children younger than 18 were arrested in North Dakota, a 1.7% decrease from 6,769 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 47 were for violent crimes and 26 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 240 children in juvenile correction facilities in North Dakota.<sup>47</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NORTH DAKOTA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, North Dakota spent \$53,820,087 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 64% was from federal funds, 22% from state funds, and 14.5% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$34,415,465 in federal funds received for child welfare, 39% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 18% from Medicaid, 5% from the Social Services Block Grant, 35% from TANF, and 1% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 1,331 children in out-of-home care in North Dakota in 2006, only 501, or 37.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## NORTH DAKOTA'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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