

OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN 2009

Oklahoma's Children At a Glance*

State Population ¹	3,617,316
Population, Children Under 18 ²	899,507
State Poverty Rate ³	13.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴	19.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵	16.9%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶	22.5%

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Oklahoma had 63,765 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 36,673 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 13,414 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oklahoma, a rate of 15.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.8% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 11,146 were neglected, 2,407 were physically abused, and 885 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 26 children in Oklahoma died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 11,816 children in Oklahoma lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,393 children in 2005. In 2006, 45.2% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 9.4% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Oklahoma children in out-of-home care in 2006, 41.2% were white, 16.9% black, 12.6% Hispanic, 10.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 19.0% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,313 children exiting out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2006, 61% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 1,141 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oklahoma, a 13% increase from 1,013 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 11,816 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 3,598 or 30.5% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 43,756 Oklahoma grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 11,816 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 29.4% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Oklahoma children in kinship care in 2006, 40.7% were white, 21.0% were black, 12.1% were Hispanic, 7.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 19.0% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oklahoma decreased from 771 in March 2007 to 730 in March 2008, a decrease of 5.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 285, an 8.4% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oklahoma was at 31.4% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Oklahoma spent \$150,972,622 in TANF funds, including 18.3% on basic assistance, 28.34% on child care, 13.5% on transportation, and 35.4% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Oklahoma spent \$52,463,978 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 119,759 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Oklahoma collected and distributed \$223,556,571 in child support funds, a 9.3% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oklahoma was \$608 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$11.69 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Oklahoma had a monthly average of 25,000 children served by subsidized child care; 19,700 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 21,800 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oklahoma, a family of three could make no more than \$35,100, which is equivalent to 79% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Oklahoma had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 13,474 Oklahoma children, a 1.9% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 452,800 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma—63.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 13,272 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 13,272 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 8,829 received Targeted Case Management services, and none received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Oklahoma had 66,570 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 13.3% increase from 2006, when 58,731 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Oklahoma had 116,000 uninsured children, representing 12.6% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 4,131 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oklahoma a rank of 23 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 417 infants under age 1 died in Oklahoma, giving it a rank of 26 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 Oklahoma was 28 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 92. This reflects a total rate of 54 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵



- Cumulative through 2006, 4,836 adults and adolescents, as well as 26 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oklahoma.³⁶
- In 2006, an estimated 24,000 children ages 12–17, and 232,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oklahoma.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 477 children aged out of out-of-home care in Oklahoma.³⁸
- In 2007, 16,000 Oklahoma teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2007, 9% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2006, 16% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 in Oklahoma needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 32 Oklahoma children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.1 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 17 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oklahoma, a 55% increase from 11 in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 21,357 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oklahoma, a 5.8% increase from 20,192 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 714 were for violent crimes and 351 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 924 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oklahoma.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Oklahoma spent \$248,445,899 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 55% was from federal funds, and 45% from state funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$137,586,885 in federal funds received for child welfare, 49% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10% from Medicaid, 17% from the Social Services Block Grant, 13% from TANF, and 4% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 11,816 children in out-of-home care in Oklahoma in 2006, only 6,491, or 54.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



OKLAHOMA'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 Oklahoma was \$24,000; the median income for a family of four in Oklahoma was \$50,216.⁵⁴

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