

OREGON'S CHILDREN 2009

Oregon's Children At a Glance*

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| State Population ¹ | 3,747,455 |
| Population, Children Under 18 ² | 862,908 |
| State Poverty Rate ³ | 12.8% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁴ | 15.3% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 ⁵ | 14.3% |
| Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁶ | 16.2% |

*All statistics are for 2007.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Oregon had 60,738 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 25,598 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2006, 12,927 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 15.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.1% increase from 2005. Of these children, 4,770 were neglected, 983 were physically abused, and 1,230 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2006, 17 children in Oregon died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2006, 10,661 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,021 children in 2005. In 2006, 39.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 13.1% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Oregon children in out-of-home care in 2006, 54.9% were white, 6.4% black, 12.0% Hispanic, 9.8% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 16.8% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,475 children exiting out-of-home care in Oregon in 2006, 63% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2006, 1,095 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 6% increase from 1,030 in 2005.¹³
- Of the 10,661 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 2,834 or 26.6% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2007, approximately 24,060 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 10,661 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 20.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care in 2006, 52.9% were white, 6.5% were black, 12.7% were Hispanic, 10.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 17.8% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon increased from 42,711 in March 2007 to 44,406 in March 2008, an increase of 4.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 18,348, a 2.8% decrease from March 2007.¹⁸



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oregon was at 51.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2006, Oregon spent \$251,418,793 in TANF funds, including 35.3% on basic assistance, 4.34% on child care, 2.0% on transportation, and 54.3% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2007, Oregon spent \$43,506,016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 103,753 participants.²¹
- In 2007, Oregon collected and distributed \$331,889,435 in child support funds, a 5.5% increase from 2006.²²
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$721 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$13.87 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Oregon had a monthly average of 20,200 children served by subsidized child care; 21,300 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 21,200 in 2004.²⁴
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than \$32,568, which is equivalent to 63% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2008, Oregon had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 8,814 Oregon children, a 3.5% decrease from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 270,500 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon—49.2% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2005, 18,013 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2005, of the 18,013 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 9,272 received Targeted Case Management services, and 7,605 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2007, Oregon had 39,586 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 34.5% increase from 2006, when 29,430 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2007, Oregon had 92,000 uninsured children, representing 10.6% of its child population.³²
- In 2005, 2,793 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Oregon a rank of 16 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2005, 269 infants under age 1 died in Oregon, giving it a rank of 20 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 Oregon was 16 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60. This reflects a total rate of 33 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2006, 5,995 adults and adolescents, as well as 20 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Oregon.³⁶



- In 2006, an estimated 26,000 children ages 12–17, and 227,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oregon.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 295 children aged out of out-of-home care in Oregon.³⁸
- In 2007, 14,000 Oregon 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, 13% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2006, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 in Oregon needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2006, approximately 18,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2005, 27 Oregon children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.74 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, two children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, a 75% decrease from eight in 2004.⁴⁵
- In 2007, 30,236 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 22.3% increase from 24,723 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 862 were for violent crimes and 353 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,254 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Oregon spent \$408,066,923 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 62% was from federal funds, 36% from state funds, and 1.7% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$253,878,627 in federal funds received for child welfare, 31% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 30% from Medicaid, 7% from the Social Services Block Grant, 26% from TANF, and 3% from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 10,661 children in out-of-home care in Oregon in 2006, only 5,929, or 55.6%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰



OREGON'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 Oregon was \$33,480; the median income for a family of four in Oregon was \$61,570.⁵⁴

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