

ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

Alabama's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	4,802,740	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	27.6%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	1,124,388	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	25.9%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	19.0%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	31.6%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Alabama had 18,966 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,700 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 8,601 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Alabama, a rate of 7.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 11.5% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 37.4% were neglected, 50.0% were physically abused, and 21.9% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 7.0% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 11 children in Alabama died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 5,295 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,350 children in 2009. In 2010, 1,773 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 718 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 27.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of Alabama children in out-of-home care in 2011, 50.7% were white, 36.9% black, 5.1% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 5.1% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,127 children exiting out-of-home care in Alabama in 2011, 37.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 440 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Alabama, a 27.4% decrease from 606 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 5,295 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,290 or 24.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 66,646 Alabama grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 5,295 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 711 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all Alabama children in kinship care in 2010, 7.6% were white, 4.3% black, 0.4% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 4.3% of more than one race or ethnicity.²⁰

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alabama increased from 51,205 in 2010 to 56,495 in 2011, an increase of 10.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 23,234, a 9.5% increase from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Alabama families living in poverty, only 17 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$184,763,017 was spent in Alabama on TANF assistance, including 29% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 4% on transportation, and 67% on nonassistance.²³



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- In 2011, 87,239,755 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alabama, serving 143,768 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, Alabama distributed \$280,431,731 in child support funds, a 4.5% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in Alabama, 128,099 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 34% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Alabama had a monthly average of 26,800 children served by subsidized child care; 26,800 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 31,900 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alabama, a family of three could make no more than \$24,084, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, Alabama had 7,128 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 17,301 Alabama children, a 6.7% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 483,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Alabama—58% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, Alabama had 109,255 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 8.7% increase from 2010, when 100,530 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, Alabama had 86,000 uninsured children, representing 7% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 6,165 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alabama.³⁴
- In 2010, 519 infants under age 1 died in Alabama.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Alabama was 23 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 72. This reflects a total rate of 44 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 10,519 adults and adolescents, as well as 77 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Alabama.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 25,000 children ages 12–17 and 297,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Alabama.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 462 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Alabama.³⁹
- In 2011, 28,000 Alabama teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 100,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 in Alabama needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 36 Alabama children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.82 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 66 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alabama, a 38% increase from 48 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 156 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alabama, a 97.0% decrease from 6,100 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 0 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 1,101 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama.⁴⁷

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁸

- 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.⁴⁹
- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 5,295 children in out-of-home care in Alabama in 2011, only 2,248, or 42%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, Alabama spent \$332,684,924 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$182,841,165 was from federal funds, \$149,583,671 from state funds, and \$260,088 from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$182,841,165 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$42,673,404 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$11,132,701 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$64,737,083 was from Medicaid, \$32,359,441 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$18,995,000 was from TANF, and \$12,943,536 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- Alabama received \$34,817,592 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$7,572,183 for maintenance payments, \$14,405,693 for administration and child placement, \$1,635,842 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$1,302,235 for training.⁵⁵
- Alabama received \$12,345,463 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$10,051,976 for assistance payments, \$1,159,804 for administration and child placement, and \$1,133,683 for staff and provider training.⁵⁶

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	Office	Phone (202)	Fax (202)	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Jeff Sessions (R) <i>Judiciary</i>	326 Russell	224-4124	224-3149	Sessions.senate.gov	2014
Richard C. Shelby (R) <i>Appropriations</i>	304 Russell	224-5744	224-3416	Shelby.senate.gov	2016
House:					
Jo Bonner (R-1st) <i>Appropriations</i>	2236 Rayburn	225-4931	225-0562	Bonner.house.gov	2014
Martha Roby (R-2nd) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	428 Cannon	225-2901	225-8913	Roby.house.gov	2014
Mike D. Rogers (R-3rd)	324 Cannon	225-3261	226-8485	Mikerogers.house.gov	2014
Robert B. Aderholt (R-4th) <i>Appropriations</i>	2369 Rayburn	225-4876	225-5587	Aderholt.house.gov	2014
Mo Brooks (R-5th)	1230 Longworth	225-4801	225-4392	Brooks.house.gov	2014
Spencer Bachus (R-6th) <i>Judiciary</i>	2246 Rayburn	225-4921	225-2082	Bachus.house.gov	2014
Terri A. Sewell (D-7th)	1133 Longworth	225-2665	226-9567	Sewell.house.gov	2014
<p align="center">Key Committee Jurisdictions</p> <p>Senate H.E.L.P.: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health</p>					



NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

² U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved on January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

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⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁰ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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¹⁴ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁵ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁶ Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by state*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/adoptchild11.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁷ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2011*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

¹⁹ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²⁰ Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

²¹ U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2012). TANF: Total Number of Recipients. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2011-recipient-tan>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

²² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2012) *TANF Weakening as a Safety Net for Poor Families: Appendix Table B1: TANF Cases to Families with Children in Poverty Ratios, 1994-95 to 2009-10*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3700>.

²³ Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2011 TANF Financial Data: Table B.1: Summary of Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures in FY 2011*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

²⁴ Food and Nutrition Service. (2013). *Program Data: WIC Program: Food Costs*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood$.htm).

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Note: All program data can be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm>.

²⁵ Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2012). *Preliminary Report FY 2011: State Boxscores for FY 2011*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy2011-preliminary-report-state-box-scores>.

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Note: Factsheet retrieved from <http://www.cbpp.org/files/2011-state-fact-sheets-public.xls> and data tabulated by CBPP from 2011 American Community Survey data.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

³¹ Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2012). *Monthly Medicaid Enrollment for Children (in thousands)*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=612&cat=4>.

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2012.) *Monthly Medicaid Enrollment (in thousands)*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=774&cat=4>.

³² Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2012.). *FY 2011 Number of Children Ever Enrolled Year-CHIP by Program Type*. Retrieved March 7, 2013 from http://www.medicare.gov/Medicare-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Childrens-Health-Insurance-Program-CHIP/Downloads/FY_2011_State_Total_CHIP-Table_-final_02102012.pdf

³³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *Table HIB-5. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State—Children Under 18: 1999 to 2011*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/files/hihist5B.xls>

³⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (n.d.). *Kids Count. Data Across States: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Low-birth weight babies (Number)- 2010*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=5425&dtm=11984&tf=133>.

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³⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2011. Vol. 23: Table 20: Stage 3 (AIDS), by area of residence, 2011 and cumulative—United States and 6 dependent areas*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/reports/2011report/pdf/2011_HIV_Surveillance_Report_vol_23.pdf#Page=69

³⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 20--Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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⁴⁰ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (n.d.). *Kids Count: Data Across States: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working (Number) - 2011*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=5062&dtm=11482&tf=867>.

⁴¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation (n.d.). *Kids Count. Data Across States: Rankings/Maps/Trends by Topic: Persons Age 18–24 not attending school, not working, and no degree beyond High School (Number) - 2011*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?loct=2&by=a&order=a&ind=5063&dtm=11484&tf=867>.

⁴² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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⁴⁴ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (n.d.). *Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19*. Retrieved March 13, 2013, from http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

⁴⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2012). *Crime in the United States 2011: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2011*. Retrieved February 27, 2013 from http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table_69_arrest_by_state_2011.xls.

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⁴⁸ Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

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Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

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⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.