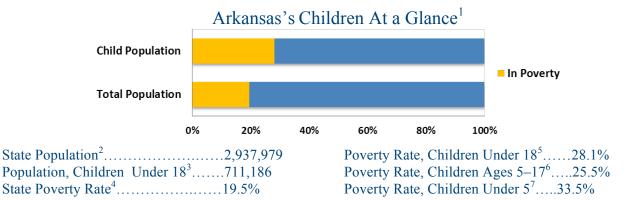
# ARKANSAS' CHILDREN



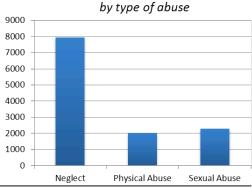
#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

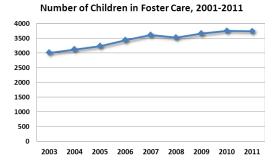
- In 2011, Arkansas had 45,656 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 33,670 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 11,105 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Arkansas, a rate of 15.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 13.4% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 71.4% were neglected, 18.1% were physically abused, and 20.5% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 12.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007. 10
- In 2011, 12 children in Arkansas died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 3,732 children in Arkansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,770 children in 2009. In 2010, 1,553 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 354 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007. 13
- Of Arkansas children in out-of-home care in 2011, 61.8% were white, 22.2% black, 6.1% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander and 9.1% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

# ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,774 children exiting out-of-home care in Arkansas in 2011, 41.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members. 15
- In 2011, 591 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Arkansas, a 1.0% decrease from 597 in 2010. 16

# Number of Child Victims, 2011





## Children Exiting Foster Care, 2011

by reason 7% 0.2% 0.1% Reunified 0.1% ■ Other Relatives 15% Adoption 41% Guardianship Emancipation Agency Transfer 1726 M Street NW, Suite 500 DC 2000 eath of Child Missing 202-688-4200 • www.cwla.org4\* 1



- Of the 3,732 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,354 or 36.3% were waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2011, approximately 36,392 Arkansas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren. <sup>18</sup>
- Of the 3,732 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 678 were living with relatives while in care. 19
- Of all Arkansas children in kinship care in 2010, 11.8% were white, 4.3% black, 0.8% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 4.3% of more than one race or ethnicity. <sup>20</sup>

#### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Arkansas decreased from 19,488 in 2010 to 18,437 in 2011, an decrease of 5.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 8,132, a 4.9% decrease from 2010.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Arkansas families living in poverty, only 10 received TANF benefits.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2011, \$186,593,246 was spent in Arkansas on TANF assistance, including 8% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 92% on nonassistance. <sup>23</sup>
- In 2011, 53,810,866 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Arkansas, serving 93,461 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, Arkansas distributed \$211,058,254 in child support funds, a 2.1% increase from 2010.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011 in Arkansas, 79,869 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 30% of them are families with children. <sup>26</sup>

#### **CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2010, Arkansas had a monthly average of 14,100 children served by subsidized child care; 10,000 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 9,600 in 2008.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Arkansas, a family of three could make no more than \$29,765, which is equivalent to 63% of the state's median income. 28
- As of early 2012, Arkansas had 14,000 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.
- In 2011. Head Start served 10.789 Arkansas children, a 2.5% increase from 2010.<sup>30</sup>

#### HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 299,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Arkansas—55% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2011, Arkansas had 103,693 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.9% increase from 2010, when 100,770 children were enrolled. 32
- In 2011, Arkansas had 56,000 uninsured children, representing 8% of its child population.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2010, 3,391 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Arkansas. 34
- In 2010, 277 infants under age 1 died in Arkansas. 35
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Arkansas was 25 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 91. This reflects a total rate of 53 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19. 36
- Cumulative through 2011, 4,688 adults and adolescents, as well as 39 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Arkansas.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 15,000 children ages 12–17 and 171,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Arkansas.<sup>38</sup>



#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- In 2011, 252 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Arkansas.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2011, 16,000 Arkansas teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.
- In 2011, 52,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Arkansas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 10,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2010, 21 Arkansas children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.64 per 100,000 children.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 25 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Arkansas, a 26% decrease from 34 in 2009.
- In 2011, 8,320 children younger than 18 were arrested in Arkansas, a 8.0% decrease from 9,091 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 318 were for violent crimes. 46
- In 2010, 729 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Arkansas.

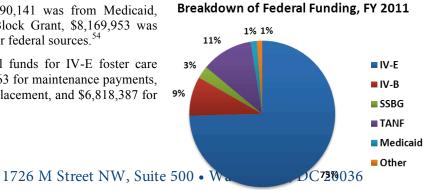
## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>48</sup>

- 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.<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>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN

- Out of 3,732 children in out-of-home care in Arkansas in 2011, only 1,802, or 48%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance. 52
- In 2010, Arkansas spent \$139,556,173 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$71,766,436 was from federal funds, \$67,789,737 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$71,766,436 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$53,557,148 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$6,218,876 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$990,141 was from Medicaid, \$1,986,770 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$8,169,953 was from TANF, and \$843,548 came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Arkansas received \$38,396,484 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$11,188,463 for maintenance payments, \$15,319,040 for administration and child placement, and \$6,818,387 for training. <sup>55</sup>







	staff and
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## Governor: Mike Beebe (D)

www.arkansas.gov State Capitol, Rm. 250, Little Rock, AR 72201 Next Election: 2014

Tel: 501-682-2345 Fax: 501-682-1382

	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
John Boozman (R) Appropriations	320 Hart	224-4843	228-1371	Boozman.senate.gov	2016
Mark Pryor (D) Appropriations	255 Dirksen	224-2353	228-0908	Pryor.senate.gov	2014
House:					
Eric Crawford (R-1 <sup>st</sup> )	1711 Longworth	225-4076	225-5602	Crawford.house.gov	2014
Tim Griffin (R-2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Ways & Means	1232 Longworth	225-2506	225-5903	Griffin.house.gov	2014
Steve Womack (R-3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Appropriations	1119 Longworth	225-4301	225-5713	Womack.house.gov	2014
Tom Cotton (R-4 <sup>th</sup> )	415 Cannon	225-3772	225-1314	Cotton.house.gov	2014

#### **Key Committee Jurisdictions**

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



#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid

7 Ibid.

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<sup>52</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (2012). Foster Care FY2003–FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf. Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

53 DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M, Vaughn, B., & Cooper, H. (2012). Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFYs 2008 and 2010. Washington, DC: Child Trends. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child Trends-2012 06 20 FR CaseyCWFinancing.pdf. 54 Ibid.

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

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



<sup>44</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (n.d.). Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\_injury\_reports.html. Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzzanchera, C. (2011). Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp.

<sup>48</sup> 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.

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