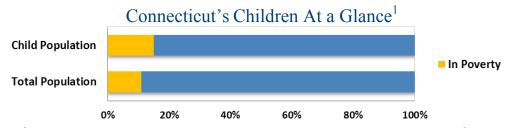
# CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN



Poverty Rate, Children Under 18<sup>5</sup>.....14.9% Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17<sup>6</sup>.....13.8% Poverty Rate, Children Under 5<sup>7</sup>.....17.6%

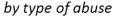
## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

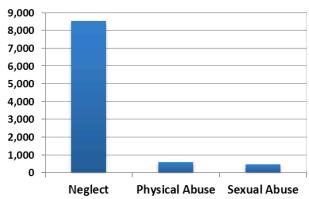
- In 2011, Connecticut had 47,242 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 29,780 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 10,012 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Connecticut, a rate of 12.5 per 1,000 children, representing a 8.3% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 85.2% were neglected, 6.0% were physically abused, and 4.8% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 1.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007. 10
- In 2011, 8 children in Connecticut died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 4,926 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,462 children in 2009. In 2010, 1,347 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,439 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 14.5% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007. 13
- Of Connecticut children in out-of-home care in 2011, 32.1% were white, 27.1% black, 33.0% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.6% Asian or Pacific Islander and 6.3% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

# ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

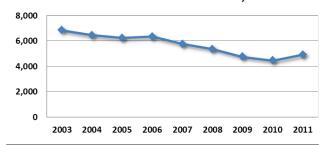
- Of the 2,101 children exiting out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2011, 49.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2011, 611 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Connecticut, a 8.1% decrease from 665 in 2010.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 4,926 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,331 or

# Number of Child Victims, 2011

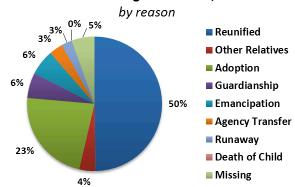




#### Number of Children in Foster Care, 2003-2011



#### Children Exiting Foster Care, 2011



- 27.0% were waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2011, approximately 21,444 Connecticut grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.
- Of the 4,926 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,010 were living with relatives while in care. 19
- Of all Connecticut children in kinship care in 2010, 7.5% were white, 5.6% black, 5.7% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 5.6% 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 Connecticut decreased from 34,413 in 2010 to 32,427 in 2011, an decrease of 5.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 16,466, a 4.6% decrease from 2010.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Connecticut families living in poverty, only 42 received TANF benefits.
- In 2011, \$482,570,156 was spent in Connecticut on TANF assistance, including 19% on basic assistance, 1% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 80% on nonassistance.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2011, 32,950,302 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Connecticut, serving 56,081 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, Connecticut distributed \$248,731,241 in child support funds, a 0.7% decrease from 2010.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011 in Connecticut, 119,959 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, Connecticut had a monthly average of 9,000 children served by subsidized child care; 9,900 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 9,400 in 2008.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$42,893, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income. 28
- As of early 2012, Connecticut had no waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 7,299 Connecticut children, a 7.4% increase from 2010.<sup>30</sup>

#### HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 278,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Connecticut—49% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2011, Connecticut had 20,072 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.6% decrease from 2010, when 21,033 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Connecticut had 43,000 uninsured children, representing 5% of its child population.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2010, 3,011 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Connecticut. 34
- In 2010, 189 infants under age 1 died in Connecticut.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Connecticut was 8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 35. This reflects a total rate of 19 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19. 36
- Cumulative through 2011, 16,522 adults and adolescents, as well as 187 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Connecticut.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 20,000 children ages 12–17 and 256,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut. 38

#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

• In 2011, 130 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Connecticut.<sup>39</sup>

- In 2011, 14,000 Connecticut teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.
- In 2011, 45,000 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 12,000 children ages 12–17 in Connecticut needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 13,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.
- In 2010, 12 Connecticut children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.31 per 100,000 children. 44

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 13 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Connecticut, a 0% change from 13 in 2009.
- In 2011, 12,505 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut, a 17.0% decrease from 15,060 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 599 were for violent crimes. 46
- In 2010, 315 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut. 47

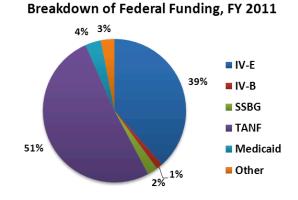
# CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>48</sup>

- 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 CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- Out of 4,926 children in out-of-home care in Connecticut in 2011, only 1,529, or 31%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2010, Connecticut spent \$770,362,126 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$241,698,552 was from federal funds, \$528,663,574 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$241,698,552 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$92,945,787 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$3,497,024 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$8,589,200 was from Medicaid, \$5,616,826 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$123,581,635 was from TANF, and \$7,468,080 came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Connecticut received \$43,966,432 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$21,162,905 for maintenance payments, \$10,568,956 for administration and child placement, \$1,612,386 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$803,174 for training.<sup>55</sup>
- Connecticut received \$35,431,728 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$24,194,423 for assistance payments, \$9,119,303 for administration and child placement, and \$2,065,247 for staff





and provider training.<sup>56</sup>

# Governor: Dan Malloy (D)

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:	·	·			
Richard Blumenthal (D)  Judiciary	702 Hart	224-2823	224-1083	Blumenthal.senate.gov	2016
Christopher Murphy (D) <i>H.E.L.P.</i>	B40A Dirksen	224-4041	224-9750	Murphy.senate.gov	2016
House:					
John B. Larson (D-1 <sup>st</sup> ) Ways & Means	1501 Longworth	225-2265	225-1031	Larson.house.gov	2014
Joe Courtney (D-2 <sup>nd</sup> )  Education & Workforce	2348 Rayburn	225-2076	225-4977	Courtney.house.gov	2014
Rosa DeLauro (D-3 <sup>rd</sup> )  Appropriations	2413 Rayburn	225-3661	225-4890	Delauro.house.gov	2014
Jim Himes (D-4 <sup>th</sup> )	119 Cannon	225-5541	225-9629	Himes.house.gov	2014
Elizabeth Esty (D-5 <sup>th</sup> )	509 Cannon	225-4476	225-5933	Esty.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>16</sup> 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.

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<sup>19</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

- <sup>20</sup> Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA
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Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state. <sup>56</sup> Ibid.

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

<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.

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.

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