

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S CHILDREN

District of Columbia's Children At a Glance¹

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|--|---------|---|-------|
| State Population ² | 617,996 | Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵ | 30.3% |
| Population, Children Under 18 ³ | 105,480 | Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶ | 30.6% |
| State Poverty Rate ⁴ | 18.7% | Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷ | 29.6% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, District of Columbia had 6,727 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,190 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 2,377 children were victims of abuse or neglect in District of Columbia, a rate of 22.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 18.2% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 63.3% were neglected, 19.1% were physically abused, and 2.0% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 13.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 3 children in District of Columbia died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 1,797 children in District of Columbia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,066 children in 2009. In 2010, 426 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 653 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 18.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of District of Columbia children in out-of-home care in 2011, 0.4% were white, 85.2% black, 9.5% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.3% Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.7% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 803 children exiting out-of-home care in District of Columbia in 2011, 45.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 106 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in District of Columbia, a 17.8% decrease from 129 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 1,797 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 365 or 20.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 4,184 District of Columbia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 1,797 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 294 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all District of Columbia children in kinship care in 2010, 0.2% were white, 14.7% black, 1.1% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 14.7% 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 District of Columbia increased from 19,785 in 2010 to 24,374 in 2011, an increase of 23.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 8,787, a 0.5% increase from 2010.²¹
- In 2011, \$249,872,756 was spent in District of Columbia on TANF assistance, including 27% on basic assistance, 3% on



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child care, 1% on transportation, and 69% on nonassistance.²²

- In 2011, 9,391,572 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in District of Columbia, serving 16,537 participants.²³
- In 2011, District of Columbia distributed \$50,832,080 in child support funds, a 0.2% increase from 2010.²⁴
- In 2011 in District of Columbia, 37,732 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 22% of them are families with children.²⁵

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, District of Columbia had a monthly average of 1,800 children served by subsidized child care; 1,500 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 2,000 in 2008.²⁶
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in District of Columbia, a family of three could make no more than \$45,775, which is equivalent to 78% of the state's median income.²⁷
- As of early 2012, District of Columbia had no waiting list for child care assistance.²⁸
- In 2011, Head Start served 3,491 District of Columbia children, a 2.6% increase from 2010.²⁹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 82,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in District of Columbia—43% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³⁰
- In 2011, District of Columbia had 8,675 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.1% increase from 2010, when 8,100 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2011, District of Columbia had 5,000 uninsured children, representing 4% of its child population.³²
- In 2010, babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in District of Columbia.³³
- In 2010, 169 infants under age 1 died in District of Columbia.³⁴
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in District of Columbia was 36 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 52. This reflects a total rate of 45 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2011, 21,238 adults and adolescents, as well as 193 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in District of Columbia.³⁶
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 2,000 children ages 12–17 and 60,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in District of Columbia.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 163 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in District of Columbia.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 1,000 children ages 12–17 in District of Columbia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁹
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 1,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2010, less than 10 District of Columbia children younger than 20 committed suicide.⁴¹

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 23 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in District of Columbia, a 4% decrease from 24 in 2009.⁴²

- In 2011, 645 children younger than 18 were arrested in District of Columbia, a from arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 88 were for violent crimes.⁴³
- In 2010, 180 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in District of Columbia.⁴⁴

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁵

- 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.⁴⁶
- 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.⁴⁷
- 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.⁴⁸

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA’S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,797 children in out-of-home care in District of Columbia in 2011, only 971, or 54%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴⁹
- In 2010, District of Columbia spent \$276,153,596 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$72,431,013 was from federal funds, \$203,722,583 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵⁰
- In 2010, of the \$72,431,013 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$59,141,071 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$1,182,566 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$63,100 was from Medicaid, \$525,365 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$10,500,000 was from TANF, and \$1,018,911 came from other federal sources.⁵¹
- District of Columbia received \$34,698,238 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$17,241,457 for maintenance payments, \$13,434,222 for administration and child placement, \$2,464,813 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$791,552 for training.⁵²
- District of Columbia received \$16,674,088 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$14,886,291 for assistance payments, \$1,783,278 for administration and child placement, and \$4,519 for staff and provider training.⁵³

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| | Office | Phone | Fax | Website | Next Election |
| House: | | | | | |
| Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-Delegate At Large) | 2136 Rayburn | 225-8050 | 225-3002 | Norton.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

¹ “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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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.

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Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹² Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

¹³ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (n.d.). *Foster Care FY2003-FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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.

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

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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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³⁷ 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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁵ 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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⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ 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.

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⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² 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.

⁵³ Ibid.

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