

MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

Mississippi's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	2,978,512	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	31.8%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	751,941	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	29.8%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	22.6%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	36.1%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Mississippi had 26,310 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,774 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 6,712 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Mississippi, a rate of 8.9 per 1,000 children, representing a 18.7% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 72.7% were neglected, 20.1% were physically abused, and 12.8% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 4.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 13 children in Mississippi died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 3,597 children in Mississippi lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 3,582 children in 2010. In 2011, 1,282 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 593 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 8.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of Mississippi children in out-of-home care in 2011, 44.1% were white, 49.2% black, 2.8% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.4% Asian or Pacific Islander and 2.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,358 children exiting out-of-home care in Mississippi in 2011, 60.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 358 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Mississippi, a 0.8% increase from 355 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 3,597 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 876 or 24.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 44,903 Mississippi grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 3,597 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,008 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all Mississippi children in kinship care in 2010, 13.7% were white, 12.8% black, 0.4% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 12.8% 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 Mississippi decreased from 25,534 in 2010 to 24,865 in 2011, an decrease of 2.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 11,756, a 2.8% decrease from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Mississippi families living in poverty, only 10 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$109,841,555 was spent in Mississippi on TANF assistance, including 18% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 11% on transportation, and 71% on nonassistance.²³

- In 2011, 63,546,471 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Mississippi, serving 96,411 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, Mississippi distributed \$286,492,777 in child support funds, a 8.0% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in Mississippi, 78,128 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 38% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Mississippi had a monthly average of 33,900 children served by subsidized child care; 27,100 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 25,400 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Mississippi, a family of three could make no more than \$34,999, which is equivalent to 75% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, Mississippi had 9,000 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 27,396 Mississippi children, a 3.3% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 337,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Mississippi—55% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, Mississippi had 91,470 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.7% increase from 2010, when 89,942 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, Mississippi had 69,000 uninsured children, representing 9% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 4,852 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Mississippi.³⁴
- In 2010, 351 infants under age 1 died in Mississippi.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Mississippi was 31 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 89. This reflects a total rate of 55 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 8,481 adults and adolescents, as well as 57 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Mississippi.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 15,000 children ages 12–17 and 170,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Mississippi.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 80 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Mississippi.³⁹
- In 2011, 22,000 Mississippi teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 70,000 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 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Mississippi needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 20 Mississippi children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.35 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 46 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Mississippi, a 18% increase from 39 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 7,915 children younger than 18 were arrested in Mississippi, a 12.0% decrease from 9,038 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 211 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 357 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Mississippi.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 MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN

- Out of 3,597 children in out-of-home care in Mississippi in 2011, only 1,174, or 33%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, Mississippi spent \$87,734,781 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$38,499,781 was from federal funds, \$47,938,443 from state funds, and \$1,296,557 from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$38,499,781 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$18,214,609 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$3,415,986 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$0 was from Medicaid, \$1,799,426 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$13,942,495 was from TANF, and \$1,127,265 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- Mississippi received \$16,488,226 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$10,217,691 for maintenance payments, \$5,971,400 for administration and child placement.⁵⁵
- Mississippi received \$6,649,259 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$5,418,847 for assistance payments, and \$1,230,412 for administration and child placement.⁵⁶

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Thad Cochran (R) <i>Appropriations, RM</i>	113 Dirksen	224-5054	224-9450	Cochran.senate.gov	2014
Roger Wicker (R)	555 Dirksen	224-6253	228-0378	Wicker.senate.gov	2018
House:					
Alan Nunnelee (R-1 st) <i>Appropriations</i>	1427 Longworth	225-4306	225-3549	Nunnelee.house.goc	2014
Bennie Thompson (D-2 nd)	2466 Rayburn	225-5876	225-5898	Thompson.house.gov	2014
Gregg Harper (R-2 nd) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	307 Cannon	225-5031	225-5797	Harper.house.gov	2014
Steven Palazzo (R-3 rd)	331 Cannon	225-5772	225-7074	Palazzo.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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⁵ Ibid.

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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>.

⁹ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2012: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011 & Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2011*. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>

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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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.

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¹⁴ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁵ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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-tanf>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

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Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2010 TANF Financial Data: Table B.2: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Assistance in FY2011*. Retrieved December 21, 2011 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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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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- 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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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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.