

MONTANA'S CHILDREN

Montana's Children At a Glance¹

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|--|---------|---|-------|
| State Population ² | 998,199 | Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵ | 19.7% |
| Population, Children Under 18 ³ | 223,071 | Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶ | 17.8% |
| State Poverty Rate ⁴ | 14.8% | Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷ | 22.7% |

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Montana had 12,042 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 7,536 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 1,066 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Montana, a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 35.3% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 91.8% were neglected, 12.6% were physically abused, and 5.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 43.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 0 children in Montana died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 1,794 children in Montana lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 1,723 children in 2010. In 2011, 767 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 135 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 3.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of Montana children in out-of-home care in 2011, 46.7% were white, 1.1% black, 6.9% Hispanic, 38.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 6.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 977 children exiting out-of-home care in Montana in 2011, 56.2% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 238 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Montana, a 24.6% increase from 191 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 1,794 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 452 or 25.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 7,066 Montana grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 1,794 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 640 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all Montana children in kinship care in 2010, 18.0% were white, 0.4% black, 2.4% Hispanic, 12.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.4% 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 Montana decreased from 9,519 in 2010 to 8,706 in 2011, an decrease of 8.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 3,490, a 7.0% decrease from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Montana families living in poverty, only 17 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$44,337,665 was spent in Montana on TANF assistance, including 38% on basic assistance, 3% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 55% on nonassistance.²³

- In 2011, 10,492,002 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Montana, serving 20,164 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, Montana distributed \$58,110,726 in child support funds, a 3.5% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in Montana, 22,210 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 17% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Montana had a monthly average of 4,900 children served by subsidized child care; 4,300 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 4,500 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Montana, a family of three could make no more than \$27,468, which is equivalent to 49% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, Montana had no waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 3,082 Montana children, a 6.2% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 66,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Montana—58% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, Montana had 24,365 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.4% decrease from 2010, when 25,231 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, Montana had 27,000 uninsured children, representing 12% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 901 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Montana.³⁴
- In 2010, 61 infants under age 1 died in Montana.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Montana was 13 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 67. This reflects a total rate of 35 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 507 adults and adolescents, as well as 3 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Montana.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 7,000 children ages 12–17 and 80,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Montana.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 73 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Montana.³⁹
- In 2011, 3,000 Montana teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 15,000 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 3,000 children ages 12–17 in Montana needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 5,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 18 Montana children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 7.17 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 14 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Montana, a 8% increase from 13 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 6,117 children younger than 18 were arrested in Montana, a 10.0% increase from 5,552 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 91 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 192 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Montana.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 MONTANA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,794 children in out-of-home care in Montana in 2011, only 666, or 37%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, Montana spent \$68,165,219 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$32,945,663 was from federal funds, \$35,219,556 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$32,945,663 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$20,819,635 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$1,566,607 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$592 was from Medicaid, \$1,998,226 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$4,333,113 was from TANF, and \$4,227,490 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- Montana received \$12,753,395 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$4,356,862 for maintenance payments, \$6,033,297 for administration and child placement, \$732,867 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$1,738,233 for training.⁵⁵
- Montana received \$6,942,639 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$6,442,749 for assistance payments, and \$499,890 for administration and child placement.⁵⁶

Governor: Steve Bullock (D)

www.montana.gov

P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801

Next Election: 2016

Tel: 406-444-3111 Fax: 406-444-5529

| | Office | Phone | Fax | Website | Next Election |
|---|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Senate: | | | | | |
| Max Baucus (D) <i>Finance, Chair</i> | 511 Hart | 224-2651 | 224-0515 | Baucus.senate.gov | 2014 |
| Jon Tester (D) <i>Appropriations</i> | 724 Hart | 224-2644 | 224-8594 | Tester.senate.gov | 2018 |
| House: | | | | | |
| Steve Daines (R-AL) | 206 Cannon | 225-3211 | 225-5687 | Daines.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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³ Ibid.

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>.

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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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.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁷ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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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.

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>.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

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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.