

# NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN

## Nebraska's Children At a Glance<sup>1</sup>

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	1,842,641	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	15.6%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	460,626	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	22.6%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	13.1%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	22.6%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Nebraska had 29,151 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 13,489 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 4,307 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 17.3% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 97.6% were neglected, 10.9% were physically abused, and 5.7% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has increased 4.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2011, 7 children in Nebraska died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 5,117 children in Nebraska lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,358 children in 2010. In 2011, 1,565 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,143 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 12.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.<sup>13</sup>
- Of Nebraska children in out-of-home care in 2011, 53.5% were white, 19.8% black, 13.2% Hispanic, 7.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.8% Asian or Pacific Islander and 3.1% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,245 children exiting out-of-home care in Nebraska in 2011, 67.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2011, 412 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Nebraska, a 5.7% decrease from 437 in 2010.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 5,117 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 826 or 16.1% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 11,868 Nebraska grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- Of the 5,117 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,082 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>
- Of all Nebraska children in kinship care in 2010, 11.8% were white, 3.9% black, 3.0% Hispanic, 1.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3.9% 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 Nebraska decreased from 19,028 in 2010 to 15,554 in 2011, an decrease of 18.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 6,605, a 16.1% decrease from 2010.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Nebraska families living in poverty, only 39 received TANF benefits.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2011, \$111,646,298 was spent in Nebraska on TANF assistance, including 26% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 74% on nonassistance.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2011, 23,008,862 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Nebraska, serving 42,910 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, Nebraska distributed \$198,289,243 in child support funds, a 4.1% increase from 2010.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011 in Nebraska, 46,363 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 29% of them are families with children.<sup>26</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Nebraska had a monthly average of 12,800 children served by subsidized child care; 13,000 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 11,100 in 2008.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Nebraska, a family of three could make no more than \$22,248, which is equivalent to 37% of the state's median income.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2012, Nebraska had no waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 5,452 Nebraska children, a 7.8% increase from 2010.<sup>30</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 122,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Nebraska—59% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2011, Nebraska had 52,852 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 10.3% increase from 2010, when 47,922 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Nebraska had 38,000 uninsured children, representing 8% of its child population.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2010, 1,839 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Nebraska.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2010, 146 infants under age 1 died in Nebraska.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Nebraska was 15 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 54. This reflects a total rate of 31 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>36</sup>
- Cumulative through 2011, 1,857 adults and adolescents, as well as 13 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Nebraska.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17 and 124,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Nebraska.<sup>38</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 304 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Nebraska.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2011, 5,000 Nebraska teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2011, 18,000 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 5,000 children ages 12–17 in Nebraska needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 6,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2010, less than 10 Nebraska children younger than 20 committed suicide.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Nebraska, an increase from fewer than 10 in 2009.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2011, 12,640 children younger than 18 were arrested in Nebraska, a 7.0% decrease from 13,662 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 195 were for violent crimes.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2010, 750 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Nebraska.<sup>47</sup>

## 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.<sup>49</sup>
- 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 NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 5,117 children in out-of-home care in Nebraska in 2011, only 952, or 19%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2010, Nebraska spent \$266,816,862 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$105,789,723 was from federal funds, \$161,027,139 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$105,789,723 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$32,911,554 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$3,183,959 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$62,919,712 was from Medicaid, \$0 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$6,774,498 came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Nebraska received \$16,967,141 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$7,878,355 for maintenance payments, \$5,348,195 for administration and child placement, \$184,646 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$1,767,689 for training.<sup>55</sup>
- Nebraska received \$11,100,659 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$10,392,352 for assistance payments, and \$708,307 for administration and child placement.<sup>56</sup>

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<b>Senate:</b>					
Deb Fischer (R)	825 Hart	224-6551	228-0012	<a href="http://Fischer.senate.gov">Fischer.senate.gov</a>	2018
Mike Johanns (R) <i>Appropriations</i>	404 Russell	224-4224	228-0436	<a href="http://Johanns.senate.gov">Johanns.senate.gov</a>	2014
<b>House:</b>					
Jeff Fortenberry (R-1 <sup>st</sup> ) <i>Appropriations</i>	1514 Longworth	225-4806	225-5686	<a href="http://Fortenberry.house.gov">Fortenberry.house.gov</a>	2014
Lee Terry (R-2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <i>Energy &amp; Commerce</i>	2266 Rayburn	225-4155	226-5452	<a href="http://Leeterry.house.gov">Leeterry.house.gov</a>	2014
Adrian Smith (R-3 <sup>rd</sup> ) <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	2241 Rayburn	225-6435	225-0207	<a href="http://Adriansmith.house.gov">Adriansmith.house.gov</a>	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

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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<sup>4</sup> 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/>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> 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>.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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>.

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<sup>14</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>15</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<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>17</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>18</sup> 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/>.

<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 calculation.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

<sup>22</sup> 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: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>47</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzanchera, C. (2011). *Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from [www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp](http://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>49</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved January 19, 2012 from [www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf).

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<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/entrEXIT2011.pdf>.

Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children’s Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

<sup>53</sup> 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](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2012_06_20_FR_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf).

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> 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.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

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