OREGON'S CHILDREN

Oregon's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	3,871,859	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵ 23.6%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	862,020	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶ 22.0%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	17.5%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷ 26.2%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Oregon had 74,179 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 32,169 reports were referred for investigation.
- In 2011, 19 children in Oregon died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2011, 8,871 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,001 children in 2010. In 2011, 3,307 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,225 were 16 or older. ¹⁰
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 7.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007. 11
- Of Oregon children in out-of-home care in 2011, 57.2% were white, 5.0% black, 13.0% Hispanic, 3.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.8% Asian or Pacific Islander and 14.0% of more than one race or ethnicity. 12

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,262 children exiting out-of-home care in Oregon in 2011, 67.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹³
- In 2011, 657 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 15.8% decrease from 780 in 2010.¹⁴
- Of the 8,871 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,663 or 18,7% were waiting to be adopted.
- In 2011, approximately 24,421 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁶
- Of the 8,871 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 3,396 were living with relatives while in care. 17
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care in 2010, 21.7% were white, 1.8% black, 5.4% Hispanic, 1.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.3% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1.8% of more than one race or ethnicity. 18

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon increased from 69,395 in 2010 to 80,343 in 2011, an increase of 15.8%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 30,617, a 13.0% increase from 2010.¹⁹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Oregon families living in poverty, only 36 received TANF benefits. 20
- In 2011, \$342,589,061 was spent in Oregon on TANF assistance, including 47% on basic assistance, 7% on child care, 2% on transportation, and 41% on nonassistance. ²¹
- In 2011, 53,873,401 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Oregon, serving 111,534 participants.²²
- In 2011, Oregon distributed \$344,717,355 in child support funds, a 1.3% increase from 2010.²³
- In 2011 in Oregon, 157,510 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs,



CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Oregon had a monthly average of 22,700 children served by subsidized child care; 21,500 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 22,700 in 2008. ²⁵
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than \$35,328, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income. ²⁶
- As of early 2012, Oregon had 6300 children on its waiting list for child care assistance. 27
- In 2011, Head Start served 12,355 Oregon children, a 11.4% increase from 2010. 28

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 273,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon—50% of the total number of enrollees in the state.²⁹
- In 2011, Oregon had 112,165 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 20.1% increase from 2010, when 93,366 children were enrolled.³⁰
- In 2011, Oregon had 64,000 uninsured children, representing 7% of its child population.³¹
- In 2010, 2,865 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Oregon.³²
- In 2010, 249 infants under age 1 died in Oregon.³³
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Oregon was 13 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 49. This reflects a total rate of 28 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19. 34
- Cumulative through 2011, 7,122 adults and adolescents, as well as 19 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Oregon. 35
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 25,000 children ages 12–17 and 285,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Oregon.³⁶

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 265 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Oregon.³⁷
- In 2011, 18,000 Oregon teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working. 38
- In 2011, 67,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁹
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 in Oregon needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 14,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year. 41
- In 2010, 17 Oregon children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.75 per 100,000 children.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 17 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Oregon, a 19% decrease from 21 in 2009. 43
- In 2011, 20,457 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 2.0% decrease from 20,820 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 445 were for violent crimes. 44
- In 2010, 1,251 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon. 45



CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁶

- 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.
- 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. 48
- 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.⁴⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON'S CHILDREN

- Out of 8,871 children in out-of-home care in Oregon in 2011, only 2,738, or 31%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰
- In 2010, Oregon spent \$414,234,104 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$239,921,486 was from federal funds, \$174,312,618 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds. ⁵¹
- In 2010, of the \$239,921,486 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$113,657,371 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$6,937,629 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$47,494,802 was from Medicaid, \$14,541,328 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$51,491,419 was from TANF, and \$5,798,937 came from other federal sources. 52
- Oregon received \$79,818,725 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$23,550,294 for maintenance payments, \$37,367,713 for administration and child placement, \$7,914,990 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$977,562 for training.⁵³
- Oregon received \$33,425,614 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$29,146,929 for assistance payments, and \$4,278,685 for administration and child placement. 54



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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Jeff Merkley (D) Appropriations	313 Hart	224-3753	228-3997	Merkley.senate.gov	2014
Ron Wyden (D) Finance	221 Dirksen	224-5244	228-2717	Wyden.senate.gov	2016
House:					
Suzanne Bonamici (D-1 st) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	439 Cannon	225-0855	225-9497	Bonamicci.house.gov	2014
Greg Walden (R-2 nd) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	2182 Rayburn	225-6730	225-5774	Walden.house.gov	2014
Earl Blumenauer (D-3 rd) Ways & Means	1111 Longworth	225-4811	225-8941	Blumenauer.house.gov	2014
Peter A. DeFazio (D-4 th)	2134 Rayburn	225-6416	225-0032	DeFazio.house.gov	2014
Kurt Schrader (D-5 th)	108 Cannon	225-5711	225-5699	Schrader.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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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 component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

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

