

TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

Tennessee's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	6,403,353	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	26.3%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	1,490,454	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	24.2%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	18.3%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	30.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Tennessee had 93,799 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 59,288 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 9,243 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Tennessee, a rate of 6.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 1.9% increase from 2010. Of these children, 63.6% were neglected, 14.5% were physically abused, and 28.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 42.4% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Tennessee responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 19,206 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 29 children in Tennessee died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 7,647 children in Tennessee lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,786 children in 2010. In 2011, 2,293 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,551 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 1.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Tennessee children in out-of-home care in 2011, 61.1% were white, 23.4% black, 5.0% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,363 children exiting out-of-home care in Tennessee in 2011, 50.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 772 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Tennessee, a 20.6% decrease from 972 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 7,647 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,937 or 25.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 71,038 Tennessee grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 7,647 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,062 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Tennessee children in kinship care in 2010, 8.8% were white, 2.4% black, 0.3% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.²¹

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Tennessee decreased from 157,251 in 2010 to 155,281 in 2011, an decrease of 1.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 61,322, a 0.0% decrease from 2010.²²

- From 2009-10, for every 100 Tennessee families living in poverty, only 37 received TANF benefits.²³
- In 2011, \$360,975,328 was spent in Tennessee on TANF assistance, including 36% on basic assistance, 7% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 57% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 83,200,080 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Tennessee, serving 161,578 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Tennessee distributed \$539,348,423 in child support funds, a 1.6% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Tennessee, 189,462 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 30% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Tennessee had a monthly average of 52,900 children served by subsidized child care; 45,700 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 42,700 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Tennessee, a family of three could make no more than \$31,992, which is equivalent to 60% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Tennessee had frozen intake for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 17,323 Tennessee children, a 6.0% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 625,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Tennessee—48% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Tennessee had 96,028 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.5% increase from 2010, when 89,302 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Tennessee had 88,000 uninsured children, representing 6% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 7,179 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Tennessee.³⁵
- In 2010, 712 infants under age 1 died in Tennessee.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Tennessee was 20 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 75. This reflects a total rate of 43 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 15,606 adults and adolescents, as well as 62 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Tennessee.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 30,000 children ages 12–17 and 391,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Tennessee.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 508 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Tennessee.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 32,000 Tennessee teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 127,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 18,000 children ages 12–17 in Tennessee needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 18,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁴

- In 2010, 37 Tennessee children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.21 per 100,000 children.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 63 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Tennessee, a 14% decrease from 73 in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 33,318 children younger than 18 were arrested in Tennessee, a 0.0% decrease from 33,399 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 1,958 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 789 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Tennessee.⁴⁸

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁴⁹

- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹
- 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.⁵²

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR TENNESSEE'S CHILDREN

- Out of 7,647 children in out-of-home care in Tennessee in 2011, only 2,852, or 37%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Tennessee spent \$496,942,100 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$225,179,600 was from federal funds, \$271,762,500 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$225,179,600 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$91,609,900 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$5,629,000 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$108,493,400 was from Medicaid, \$17,188,100 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$2,259,200 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Tennessee received \$47,452,685 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$21,699,087 for maintenance payments, \$5,381,998 for administration and child placement, \$9,480,797 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$3,514,247 for training.⁵⁶
- Tennessee received \$38,320,930 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$35,208,709 for assistance payments, \$1,334,843 for administration and child placement, and \$1,777,378 for staff and provider training.⁵⁷

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Lamar Alexander (R) <i>H.E.L.P. Appropriations</i>	455 Dirksen	224-4944	228-3398	Alexander.senate.gov	2014
Bob Corker (R)	185 Dirksen	224-3344	228-0566	Corker.senate.gov	2018
House:					
David Roe (R-1 st) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	407 Cannon	225-6356	225-5714	Roe.house.gov	2014
John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-2 nd)	2207 Rayburn	225-5435	225-6440	Duncan.house.gov	2014
Chuck Fleischmann (R-3 rd) <i>Appropriations</i>	230 Cannon	225-3271	225-3494	Fleischmann.house.gov	2014
Scott DesJarlais (R-4 th) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	413 Cannon	225-6831	226-5172	DesJarlais.house.gov	2014
Jim Cooper (D-5 th)	1536 Longworth	225-4311	226-1035	Cooper.house.gov	2014
Diane Black (R-6 th) <i>Ways & Means</i>	1531 Longworth	225-4231	225-6887	Black.house.gov	2014
Marsha Blackburn (R-7 th) <i>Energy & Commerce, Vice Chair</i>	217 Cannon	225-2811	225-3004	Blackburn.house.gov	2014
Stephen Lee Fincher (R-8 th)	1118 Longworth	225-4714	225-1765	Fincher.house.gov	2014
Steve Cohen (D-9 th) <i>Judiciary</i>	2404 Rayburn	225-3265	225-5663	Cohen.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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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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¹³ 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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹⁶ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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²⁰ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²¹ 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.

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Note: The percents are a CWLA calculation.

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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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⁴⁵ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (n.d.). *Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19*. Retrieved March 13, 2013, from http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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⁴⁹ 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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⁵⁶ 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.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

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