UTAH'S CHILDREN

Utah's Children At a Glance¹

State Population22,817,222Population, Children Under 18^3 881,079State Poverty Rate413.5%

Poverty Rate, Children Under 18⁵.....15.9% Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17⁶....14.7% Poverty Rate, Children Under 5⁷....17.7%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Utah had 33,387 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 18,821 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 10,586 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Utah, a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 29.5% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 22.4% were neglected, 14.6% were physically abused, and 15.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 22.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 11 children in Utah died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 2,701 children in Utah lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,886 children in 2010. In 2011, 687 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 644 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 2.3% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of Utah children in out-of-home care in 2011, 64.4% were white, 4.9% black, 22.2% Hispanic, 3.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.5% Asian or Pacific Islander and 1.8% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,154 children exiting out-of-home care in Utah in 2011, 43.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 577 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Utah, a 0.5% increase from 574 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 2,701 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 545 or 20.2% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 18,339 Utah grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 2,701 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 486 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all Utah children in kinship care in 2010, 13.0% were white, 0.7% black, 3.6% Hispanic, 0.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.7% 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 Utah decreased from 18,645 in 2010 to 15,167 in 2011, an decrease of 18.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 5,869, a 11.8% decrease from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Utah families living in poverty, only 15 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$116,358,468 was spent in Utah on TANF assistance, including 27% on basic assistance, 5% on child care, 3% on transportation, and 65% on nonassistance.²³



- In 2011, 32,784,183 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Utah, serving 73,049 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, Utah distributed \$182,972,269 in child support funds, a 5.6% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in Utah, 64,289 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 46% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Utah had a monthly average of 12,200 children served by subsidized child care; 10,000 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 12,500 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Utah, a family of three could make no more than \$35,484, which is equivalent to 60% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, Utah had no waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 6,117 Utah children, a 13.3% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 158,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Utah—55% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, Utah had 59,698 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 3.8% decrease from 2010, when 62,071 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, Utah had 95,000 uninsured children, representing 11% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 3,655 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Utah.³⁴
- In 2010, 277 infants under age 1 died in Utah.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Utah was 14 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 46. This reflects a total rate of 28 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 2,670 adults and adolescents, as well as 20 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Utah.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 16,000 children ages 12–17 and 145,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Utah.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 215 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Utah.³⁹
- In 2011, 15,000 Utah teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 45,000 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 11,000 children ages 12–17 in Utah needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 10,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 35 Utah children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.64 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 17 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Utah, a 15% decrease from 20 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 9,426 children younger than 18 were arrested in Utah, a 6.0% decrease from 23,810 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 156 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 684 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Utah.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 UTAH'S CHILDREN

- Out of 2,701 children in out-of-home care in Utah in 2011, only 902, or 33%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, Utah spent \$167,674,426 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$82,895,394 was from federal funds, \$84,779,032 from state funds, and \$ from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$82,895,394 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$29,768,519 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$5,077,272 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$29,554,757 was from Medicaid, \$14,238,000 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$4,256,846 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- Utah received \$22,294,743 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$7,817,037 for maintenance payments, \$10,247,099 for administration and child placement, \$1,503,058 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$2,071,069 for training.⁵⁵
- Utah received \$7,396,194 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$6,461,724 for assistance payments, \$724,606 for administration and child placement, and \$209,864 for staff and provider training.⁵⁶



Governor: Gary Herbert (R)

www.utah.gov

350 North State Street, Suite 200, PO Box 142220, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Next Election: 2016

Tel: 801-538-1000 Fax: 801-538-1528

Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
316 Hart	224-5444	228-1168	Lee.senate.gov	2016
104 Hart	224-5251	224-6331	Hatch.senate.gov	2018
123 Cannon	225-0453	225-5857	Robbishop.house.gov	2014
323 Cannon	225-9730		Stewart.house.gov	2014
2464 Rayburn	225-7751	225-5629	Chaffetz.house.gov	2014
2211 Rayburn	225-3011	225-5638	Matheson.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				
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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. 56 Ibid.

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

