

# WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN

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

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	6,830,038	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	13.9%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	1,580,242	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	16.8%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	13.9%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	20.4%

### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Washington had 75,992 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 35,798 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 6,541 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Washington, a rate of 4.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 8.7% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 86.3% were neglected, 20.9% were physically abused, and 7.3% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 6.3% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.<sup>10</sup>
- Washington responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 11,171 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 20 children in Washington died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2011, 9,533 children in Washington lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 10,136 children in 2010. In 2011, 4,203 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 809 were 16 or older.<sup>13</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 14.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.<sup>14</sup>
- Of Washington children in out-of-home care in 2011, 51.3% were white, 8.6% black, 16.4% Hispanic, 7.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.6% Asian or Pacific Islander and 12.1% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>15</sup>

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

- Of the 5,522 children exiting out-of-home care in Washington in 2011, 54.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2011, 1,583 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Washington, a 3.1% decrease from 1,633 in 2010.<sup>17</sup>
- Of the 9,533 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,741 or 28.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 44,779 Washington grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>19</sup>
- Of the 9,533 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 3,168 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>20</sup>
- Of all Washington children in kinship care in 2010, 16.7% were white, 2.6% black, 5.6% Hispanic, 3.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.5% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2.6% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>21</sup>

### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Washington decreased from 158,938 in 2010 to 148,777 in 2011, an decrease of 6.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 62,710, a 4.4% decrease from 2010.<sup>22</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Washington families living in poverty, only 49 received TANF benefits.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2011, \$1,063,275,410 was spent in Washington on TANF assistance, including 29% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 71% on nonassistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, 98,690,238 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Washington, serving 192,565 participants.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011, Washington distributed \$641,015,036 in child support funds, a 0.5% increase from 2010.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2011 in Washington, 219,433 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 26% of them are families with children.<sup>27</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Washington had a monthly average of 51,100 children served by subsidized child care; 46,400 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 48,400 in 2008.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Washington, a family of three could make no more than \$32,424, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2012, Washington had no waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 12,369 Washington children, a 9.7% increase from 2010.<sup>31</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 666,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Washington—62% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Washington had 43,364 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 20.8% increase from 2010, when 35,894 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2011, Washington had 143,000 uninsured children, representing 9% of its child population.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2010, 5,464 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Washington.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, 388 infants under age 1 died in Washington.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Washington was 13 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 47. This reflects a total rate of 27 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2011, 13,762 adults and adolescents, as well as 34 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Washington.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 33,000 children ages 12–17 and 405,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Washington.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 447 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Washington.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2011, 33,000 Washington teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2011, 112,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 19,000 children ages 12–17 in Washington needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 21,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2010, 45 Washington children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.54 per 100,000 children.<sup>45</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 45 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Washington, a 13% increase from 40 in 2009.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2011, 17,052 children younger than 18 were arrested in Washington, a 27.0% decrease from 23,325 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 686 were for violent crimes.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2010, 1,305 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Washington.<sup>48</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>49</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>50</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>51</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>52</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR WASHINGTON'S CHILDREN

- Out of 9,533 children in out-of-home care in Washington in 2011, only 1,676, or 18%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, Washington spent \$581,627,121 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$270,534,056 was from federal funds, \$310,360,886 from state funds, and \$732,179 from local funds.<sup>54</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$270,534,056 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$151,697,469 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$11,233,878 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$22,020,724 was from Medicaid, \$46,298,262 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$27,902,823 was from TANF, and \$11,380,900 came from other federal sources.<sup>55</sup>
- Washington received \$83,900,836 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$20,713,789 for maintenance payments, \$53,371,595 for administration and child placement, \$2,617,311 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$4,720,046 for training.<sup>56</sup>
- Washington received \$53,010,685 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$44,565,735 for assistance payments, \$8,390,106 for administration and child placement, and \$54,844 for staff and provider training.<sup>57</sup>

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<b>Senate:</b>					
Maria Cantwell (D) <i>Finance</i>	311 Hart	224-3441	228-0514	Cantwell.senate.gov	2016
Patty Murray (D) <i>Appropriations</i> <i>H.E.L.P.</i>	448 Russell	224-2621	224-0238	Murray.senate.gov	2014
<b>House:</b>					
Suzan DelBene (D) <i>Judiciary</i>	318 Cannon	225-6311	226-1606	Delbene.house.gov	2014
Rick Larsen (D)	2113 Rayburn	225-2605	225-4420	Larsen.house.gov	2014
Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-3 <sup>rd</sup> ) <i>Appropriations</i>	1130 Longworth	225-3536	225-3478	HerreraBeutler.house.gov	2014
Doc Hastings (R-4 <sup>th</sup> )	1203 Longworth	225-5816	225-3251	Hasting.house.gov	2014
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-5 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>Energy &amp; Commerce</i>	203 Cannon	225-2006	225-3392	Mcmorris.house.gov	2014
Derek Kilmer (D-6 <sup>th</sup> )	1429 Longworth	225-5916	226-1176	Kilmer.house.gov	2014
Jim McDermott (D-7 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	1035 Longworth	225-3106	225-6197	Mcdermott.house.gov	2014
Dave Reichert (R-8 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	1127 Longworth	225-7761	225-4282	Reichert.house.gov	2014
Adam Smith (D-9 <sup>th</sup> )	2264 Rayburn	225-8901	225-5893	Adamsmith.house.gov	2014
Denny Heck (D-10 <sup>th</sup> )	425 Cannon	225-9740	225-0129	Dennyheck.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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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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<sup>13</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>14</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/entrvexit2011.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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<sup>16</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>17</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>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>18</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>19</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>20</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>21</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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<sup>46</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (n.d.). *Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19*. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html).

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>47</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2012). *Crime in the United States 2011: Table 69: Arrests by State, 2011*. Retrieved February 27, 2013 from [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table\\_69\\_arrest\\_by\\_state\\_2011.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/table_69_arrest_by_state_2011.xls).

Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2011). *Crime in the United States 2010: Arrests by States, 2010*. Retrieved February 27, 2013 from <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10tbl69.xls>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>48</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.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp](http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp).

<sup>49</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>50</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>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</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/entryexit2011.pdf>.

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

<sup>54</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>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</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>57</sup> Ibid.

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