

WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

Wisconsin's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	5,711,767	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	18.2%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	1,324,400	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	16.4%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	13.1%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	21.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Wisconsin had 64,175 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 27,060 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 4,750 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Wisconsin, a rate of 3.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 2.7% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 56.4% were neglected, 22.1% were physically abused, and 30.2% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 39.5% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Wisconsin responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 990 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 24 children in Wisconsin died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 6,547 children in Wisconsin lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,575 children in 2010. In 2011, 2,359 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 957 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 13.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Wisconsin children in out-of-home care in 2011, 43.8% were white, 34.8% black, 9.4% Hispanic, 4.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.6% Asian or Pacific Islander and 4.8% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,292 children exiting out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2011, 60.0% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 717 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wisconsin, a 5.0% decrease from 755 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 6,547 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,138 or 17.4% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 26,329 Wisconsin grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 6,547 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,038 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Wisconsin children in kinship care in 2010, 14.3% were white, 9.9% black, 3.1% Hispanic, 1.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.2% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 9.9% 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 Wisconsin increased from 49,520 in 2010 to 61,745 in 2011, an increase of 24.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 25,806, a 19.0% increase from 2010.²²

- From 2009-10, for every 100 Wisconsin families living in poverty, only 25 received TANF benefits.²³
- In 2011, \$576,566,670 was spent in Wisconsin on TANF assistance, including 22% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 78% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 63,184,345 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wisconsin, serving 121,516 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Wisconsin distributed \$606,831,741 in child support funds, a 0.8% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Wisconsin, 177,226 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 26% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Wisconsin had a monthly average of 20,100 children served by subsidized child care; 31,300 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 28,000 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wisconsin, a family of three could make no more than \$35,316, which is equivalent to 54% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Wisconsin had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 14,371 Wisconsin children, a 6.7% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 453,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wisconsin—47% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Wisconsin had 172,451 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.8% increase from 2010, when 161,469 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Wisconsin had 77,000 uninsured children, representing 6% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 4,818 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wisconsin.³⁵
- In 2010, 393 infants under age 1 died in Wisconsin.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Wisconsin was 12 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 47. This reflects a total rate of 26 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 5,463 adults and adolescents, as well as 35 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Wisconsin.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17 and 412,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wisconsin.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 457 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Wisconsin.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 21,000 Wisconsin teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 69,000 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 22,000 children ages 12–17 in Wisconsin needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 20,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁴

- In 2010, 48 Wisconsin children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.2 per 100,000 children.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 43 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wisconsin, a 39% increase from 31 in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 64,921 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wisconsin, a 2.0% increase from 63,925 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 1,411 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 1,110 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wisconsin.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 WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN

- Out of 6,547 children in out-of-home care in Wisconsin in 2011, only 2,349, or 36%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Wisconsin spent \$424,422,601 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$192,261,866 was from federal funds, \$147,618,400 from state funds, and \$84,542,335 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$192,261,866 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$109,332,939 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$9,957,783 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$26,210,967 was from Medicaid, \$8,468,600 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$33,860,900 was from TANF, and \$4,430,677 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Wisconsin received \$58,474,050 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$20,331,065 for maintenance payments, \$29,031,319 for administration and child placement, \$2,910,895 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$4,735,615 for training.⁵⁶
- Wisconsin received \$52,444,876 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$47,894,741 for assistance payments, and \$4,550,135 for administration and child placement.⁵⁷

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Tammy Baldwin (D) <i>H.E.L.P.</i>	C-1 Russell	224-5653	224-9787	Baldwin.senate.gov	2018
Ron Johnson (R)	386 Russell	224-5323	224-2725	Ronjohnson.senate.gov	2016
House:					
Paul Ryan (R-1 st) <i>Ways & Means</i>	1233 Longworth	225-3031	225-3393	Paulryan.house.gov	2014
Mark Pocan (D-2 nd)	313 Cannon	225-2906	225-6942	Pocan.house.gov	2014
Ron Kind (D-3 rd) <i>Ways & Means</i>	1502 Longworth	225-5506	225-5739	Kind.house.gov	2014
Gwen Moore (D-4 th)	2245 Rayburn	225-4572	225-8135	Gwenmoore.house.gov	2014
James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-5 th) <i>Judiciary</i>	2449 Rayburn	225-5101	225-3190	Sensenbrenner.house.gov	2014
Tom Petri (R-6 th) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	2462 Rayburn	225-2476	225-2356	Petri.house.gov	2014
Sean P. Duffy (R-7 th)	1208 Longworth	225-3365	225-3240	Duffy.house.gov	2014
Reid J. Ribble (R-8 th)	1513 Longworth	225-5665	225-5729	Ribble.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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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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¹⁵ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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.

²³ 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: All program data can be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm>.

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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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³⁹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 20.-Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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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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⁵² Ibid.

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

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⁵⁵ Ibid.

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.