

## THE NATION'S CHILDREN

### America's Children: A Snapshot

Child population under 18, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	73,650,025
White children (not Hispanic) under 18, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	53.5%
Non-white children under 18, 2011 <sup>3</sup>	46.5%
Young Children (under 6), 2011 <sup>4</sup>	32.8%
Children (6–11), 2011 <sup>5</sup>	33.4%
Youth (11–17), 2011 <sup>6</sup>	33.8%

### America's Most Vulnerable Children: A Snapshot

Estimate of referrals of possible child abuse and neglect, 2011 <sup>7</sup>	3,426,000
Children substantiated/indicated as abused or neglected, 2011 <sup>8</sup>	676,569
Estimated children who died as a result of abuse or neglect, 2011 <sup>9</sup>	1,570
Children living in out-of-home care, 2011 <sup>10</sup>	400,540
Children adopted from the public foster care system, 2011 <sup>11</sup>	50,516
Children waiting to be adopted, 2011 <sup>12</sup>	104,236
Children living in poverty, 2011 <sup>13</sup>	16,134,000
Children living in low-income families (200% of poverty), 2011 <sup>14</sup>	32,678,000
National Poverty Rate, 2011 <sup>15</sup>	15%
National Poverty Rate for children under 18, 2011 <sup>16</sup>	21.98%
National Poverty Rate for children under age 6, 2011 <sup>17</sup>	24.5%

### Child Abuse and Neglect

- In 2011, approximately 3.4 million allegations of child abuse and neglect, representing 6.2 million children, were made to child protective services agencies. Of those, 1,647,214 reports were referred for investigation, as reported by 45 states.<sup>18</sup>
- During 2011, an estimated 681,000 children in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect. Of these children, 78.5% were neglected, 17.6% were physically abused, and 9.1% were sexually abused.<sup>19</sup>
- Of the substantiations of child abuse and neglect in 2011, 61.2% received follow-up services. That service was foster care 37.4% of the time. Of the non-substantiated reports, 30.1% received follow-up services.<sup>20</sup>



- In 2011, 400,540 children lived apart from their families in out-of-home care. Of the children living apart from their families, 38% were age 5 or younger, 44% were ages 6 through 15, and 20% were 16 or older.<sup>21</sup>
- Of the children living in out-of-home care in 2011, 41% were white, 27% were black, 21% were Hispanic, 2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native and 7% were children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>22</sup>

### **Permanent Families for Children**

- Of the 245,260 children exiting out-of-home care in the United States in 2011, 125,908 were reunited with their parents or other family members. In addition, 15,707 children exited out-of-home care to guardianship.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 50,516 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency, a 5.7% decrease from 53,591 in 2010.<sup>24</sup>
- Of the 400,540 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 104,236 children were waiting to be adopted.<sup>25</sup>

### **Kinship Support**

- In 2011, 2,732,099 grandparents were responsible for his or her grandchildren.<sup>26</sup>
- Of the 400,540 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 107,995 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2010, almost 7.8 million children under age 18 lived in homes with a householder who was their grandparents or other relative. Of these, more than 5.8 million lived with grandparents who were the householders.<sup>28</sup>

### **Child Poverty and Income Support**

- The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty is 21.9%, which has remained statistically the same since 2011. This leveling follows a steady increase from 17.4% in 2006.<sup>29</sup>
- The total number of children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the United States increased from 3,288,506 in 2010 to 3,315,576 in 2011. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was up to 1,864,187 from 1,847,683 in 2010.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2012, approximately \$7.1 billion was spent on the Women, Infant, and Child (WIC) Nutrition Program, serving 8.91 million participants, a decrease from 8.97 million participants in 2011.<sup>31</sup>



- In 2011, over \$27.3 billion in child support funds was collected and distributed in the United States, up 3% compared to the \$26.6 billion in 2010 and following a steady increase since 2007.<sup>32</sup>

### **Child Care and Head Start**

- In 2010, an estimated monthly average of 1,694,200 of the nation's children received subsidized child care. This compares to 1,638,000 children served in 2009, 1,622,600 children served in 2008, and 1,708,600 children served in 2007.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 964,430 children.<sup>34</sup>
- In FY 2012, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) was funded at \$5.195 billion, and the amount of TANF funds used for child care in FFY 2012 was \$2.975 billion, for a total of \$8.170 billion. Even after adjustment for inflation, the amount of TANF and CCDBG funds used for child care in FFY 2012 was slightly below its high of \$8.218 billion in FFY 2011.<sup>35</sup>
- In 40 states the income eligibility limit for obtaining child care assistance remained below 200% of poverty (\$19,090 a year for a family of 3). In the majority of communities across the country, a family needs an income equal to at least 200% of poverty to meet basic needs, including housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, and other necessities.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2012, 23 states had waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance, higher than 22 states in 2011 and 21 states in 2001.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2012, only one state paid child care providers at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates, slightly lower than the three states in 2011, and a sharp decline from 22 states paying at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rates in 2001.<sup>38</sup>

### **Health**

#### *Pregnancy and Parenting*

- In 2011, the birth rate among females age 10 to 14 was 0.4 births per 1,000 females. Among females age 15 to 19, it was 31.3 births per 1,000 females, the lowest level ever reported in the United States.<sup>39</sup>
- Teen girls in foster care are 2.5 times more likely than their peers not in foster care to get pregnant by age 19.<sup>40</sup>
- Children born to teen mothers are at increased risk of ending up in foster care and child protective services. It is estimated that teen childbearing costs taxpayers \$10.9 billion annually, including \$2.8 billion in child welfare costs.<sup>41</sup>



### *Newborn Health and Infant Mortality*

- Nationally, low-birth-weight babies represented 8.1% of all live births in 2011, down slightly from 8.2% in 2010 and a four-decade high of 8.3% in 2006.<sup>42</sup>
- The infant mortality rate for 2011 was 6.05 deaths per 1,000 live births, which was not a statistically significant change from 2010.<sup>43</sup>

### *HIV/AIDS*

- In 2009, 3,755 children aged 19 or younger were reported as having AIDS.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2010, an estimated 2,451 persons under 19 years old were diagnosed with the HIV infection.<sup>45</sup>

### **Child and Youth Mental Health**

- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among those 5–14 years old, and the third leading cause of death among those 15–24 years old. Among youth aged 10–14, the suicide rate has doubled in the last two decades.<sup>46</sup>
- Mental health disorders are chronic diseases among youth; half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% have begun by age 24.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2011, the average age of onset was 6 for anxiety disorders, 11 for behavior disorders, 13 for mood disorders, and 15 for substance use disorders.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2010, 2.9 million youth aged 12–17 (12.2%) received treatment or counseling for problems with emotions or behavior in a specialty mental health setting (inpatient or outpatient care). The most common reason for receiving services among youth was feeling depressed (47.6%).<sup>49</sup>
- 20% of children have been diagnosed with a DSM-IV disorder and only 30% of diagnosed children receive psychiatric services.<sup>50</sup>

### *Foster Care and Mental Health*

- A 2007 study of youth in care (age 14–17) found that rates of nine lifetime mental health disorders were notably higher among youth in care than among youth in the general population, including:
  - Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): 15.1% vs. 4.5%
  - Conduct disorder: 20.7% vs. 7.0%
  - Major depressive disorder: 19% vs. 11.9%
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD): 13.4% vs. 5.2%<sup>51</sup>



- A 2006 literature review by Casey Family Programs reveals that between one-half and three-fourths of the children entering foster care exhibit behavior or social competency problems that warrant mental health care.<sup>52</sup>
- A majority of youth in foster care (85%) are estimated to have an emotional disorder and/or a substance abuse problem,<sup>53</sup> and 30% have severe behavioral, emotional, or developmental problems.<sup>54</sup>
- A Northwest Alumni Foster Care Study revealed that among surveyed adults who had been placed in foster care as children, more than half (54.4%) had experienced clinical levels of at least one mental health problem in the last 12 months. One quarter (25%) suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the past 12 months—a rate nearly double that of U.S. war veterans.<sup>55</sup>
- A 2004 national study showed that 3 out of 4 youth in child welfare who meet a stringent criterion for need were not receiving specialty mental health services within 12 months after a child abuse and neglect investigation.<sup>56</sup>

#### *Foster Care and Medicaid*

- In 2008, 1,042,325 children were enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care. Of those children, 162,346 received Targeted Case Management (TCM) services and 112,182 received rehabilitative services.<sup>57</sup>
- In SFY 2008, states spent approximately \$1 billion in Medicaid dollars on Medicaid TCM and rehabilitative services.<sup>58</sup>
- According to data from a 2005 study, children in foster care receiving TCM services are much more likely to receive other important services such as physician, prescription drug, and dental and home health services than children in foster care who do not receive TCM services.<sup>59</sup>
- Although children and youth in foster care represent only 3.7% of the nondisabled children enrolled in Medicaid, due to disproportionate needs, they account for 12.3% of total expenditures and 25% to 41% in Medicaid mental health expenditures.<sup>60</sup>

#### **Substance Abuse and Child Welfare**

- In 2011, 20.6 million people age 12 or older were classified with substance dependence or abuse. The rate of substance dependence or abuse among youth age 12–17 was 8.0%.<sup>61</sup>



- In 2011, 16.7 million people age 12 or older were classified with alcohol dependence or abuse. The rate of alcohol dependence among youth age 12–17 was 6.5%.<sup>62</sup>
- In 2010, 3.8 million people age 12 or older (1.5% of the population) received treatment for a problem related to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. Of the 1.7 million youth aged 12–17 who needed treatment for illicit drug or alcohol use problems, 146,000 received treatment at a specialty facility, leaving nearly 1.6 million that did not receive treatment at a specialty facility.<sup>63</sup>
- Data shows that children of parents with substance abuse disorders are nearly three times more likely to be abused and more than four times more likely to be neglected than children of parents who do not abuse substances.<sup>64</sup>
- Estimates suggest that 50–80% of child welfare cases involve a parent with a substance abuse problem.<sup>65</sup>

### **Vulnerable Youth**

- In FY 2011, 26,286 children left out-of-home care without a permanent family, a decrease of 5.6% from 27,854 in 2010.<sup>66</sup>
- A 2011 National School Climate Survey found 81.9% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students reported being verbally harassed, 38.3% reported being physically harassed and 18.3% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation. Nearly two-thirds (63.9%) of students reported that they felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation, and more than a tenth (12.4%) felt unsafe because of their gender expression.<sup>67</sup>
- In 2011, there were about 864,000 teens between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not in school and had not graduated from high school. There were 1,497,000 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>68</sup>
- In 2011, 23% of children aged 0–17 had at least one foreign-born parent, up from 15% in 1994. Children who have difficulty speaking English may face greater challenges progressing in school and in the labor market. In 2011, 21% of children under the age of 17 spoke a language other than English at home.<sup>69</sup>

### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**



- In 2011, U.S. law enforcement agencies arrested an estimated 1.0 million persons younger than age 18, a 29.1% decline over 2007.<sup>70</sup>
- In 2009, there were 1.5 million delinquency cases, down 12% since 2000. Youth under 16 made up 52% of these cases.<sup>71</sup>
- In 2009, probation remained the most likely disposition for juvenile offenders. With 60% of offenders being placed on probation compared to 27% placed in residential placement.<sup>72</sup>

### **Funding Child Welfare Services**

- In FY 2011, the federal government had a total budget of \$3.6 trillion, spending on children totaled 10.4% of the budget or \$376 billion. This is a 1% decrease from \$378 billion in 2010.<sup>73</sup>
- Federal spending on children fell from a record high of 2.6 in FY 2010 to 2.5% of GDP in 2011. Spending in FY 2010 was boosted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA Stimulus Act).<sup>74</sup>
- The ten programs that spent the most on children in the FY 2011 federal budget were Medicaid (\$74 billion), Earned Income Tax Credit (\$52 billion), Child Tax Credit (\$46 billion), Dependency Exemption (\$35 billion), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (\$37 billion), Social Security (\$21.3 billion), Title I (\$19.5 billion), Special Education (\$17.1 billion), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families–TANF (\$13.7 billion), and Child Nutrition (\$17.2 billion).<sup>75</sup>
- Out of 400,540 children in out-of-home care in 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2011, only 168,385 children received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>76</sup>
- In FY 2010, of the \$13.6 billion federal dollars spent for child welfare, 52% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5% was from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 7% was from Medicaid, 12% was from the Social Services Block Grant, 22% was from TANF, and 3% was from other federal sources, including SSI and Survivors Benefits.<sup>77</sup>

### **Child Welfare Workforce**

- While CWLA standards suggest a caseload ratio of 12 to 15 per caseworker, the actual average caseload for a child protective service worker is 24.<sup>78</sup>



- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned an annual salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999. Approximately 20% of caseworkers had salaries over \$50,000.<sup>79</sup>
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.<sup>80</sup>
- Child welfare workforce turnover rates are estimated to be between 23% and 60% annually across private and public child welfare agencies.<sup>81</sup>
- Vacancy rates for the child welfare workforce are nearly 10%, and it takes seven to 13 weeks to fill vacant positions.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2012). *Children characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved, November 2, 2012.

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S0901&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S0901&prodType=table). Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011*. Retrieved December 12, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. Note: The number of victims reported only counts children once, regardless of the number of times they may have been determined a victim in FY2011. This “unique count” has only been available since FY 2009 data. Historically, the “duplicate count”—which counts some children more than once if they were determined to be a victim more than once in the FFY had been reported. The duplicate count for FY 2011 is 724,371.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (2012). *The AFCARS Report: Preliminary FY2011 Estimates as of July 2012*. Retrieved October 25, 2012, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport19.pdf>. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-243, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2012. Retrieved December 13, 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011*. Retrieved December 12, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.





<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (2012). *The AFCARS Report: Preliminary FY2011 Estimates as of July 2012*. Retrieved October 25, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport19.pdf>. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. Note: Percent change is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2011) American Community Survey. *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States. American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved November 15, 2012, from [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP02&prodType=table). Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>27</sup> United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (2012). *The AFCARS Report: Preliminary FY2011 Estimates as of July 2012*. Retrieved October 25, 2012, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport19.pdf>. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>28</sup> AARP et al. (2011). *GrandFacts: National fact sheet for grandparents and other relatives raising children*. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org).

<sup>29</sup> DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-243, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2012. Retrieved December 13, 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf>.

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<sup>30</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Caseload Data 2011*. Retrieved November 28, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload2011>. Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>31</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, WIC Program. (2012). *Summary of FY 2012 Grants*. Retrieved November 28, 2012, from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/fundingandprogramdata/grants2012.htm>. Washington, DC: Author  
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<sup>32</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Office of Child Support Enforcement FY 2011 Preliminary Report*. Retrieved January 25, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy2011-preliminary-report-table-p-1>. Washington, DC: Author.

<sup>33</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, Child Care Bureau. (2011). *FY 2010 CCDF Data Tables: Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served*. Retrieved November 28, 2012 from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/2010\\_preliminary.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/2010_preliminary.pdf). Washington, DC: Author.

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- <sup>36</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid.
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