NEW JERSEY’S CHILDREN

New Jersey’s Children At a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Population</th>
<th>Population, Children Under 18</th>
<th>State Poverty Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,821,155</td>
<td>2,042,425</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Poverty Rate, Children Under 18: 14.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17: 13.2%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5: 14.5%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, 8,238 children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey, a rate of 4.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 15.9% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 82.6% were neglected, 14.4% were physically abused, and 11.1% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has increased 9.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.
- In 2011, 22 children in New Jersey died as a result of abuse or neglect.
- In 2011, 6,440 children in New Jersey lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 7,172 children in 2010. In 2011, 2,873 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 604 were 16 or older.
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 28.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.
- Of New Jersey children in out-of-home care in 2011, 25.7% were white, 43.9% black, 20.2% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.3% Asian or Pacific Islander and 3.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,811 children exiting out-of-home care in New Jersey in 2011, 53.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.
- In 2011, 1,089 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in New Jersey, a 14.6% decrease from 1,275 in 2010.
- Of the 6,440 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,260 or 35.1% were waiting to be adopted.
- In 2011, approximately 45,869 New Jersey grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.
- Of the 6,440 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,247 were living with relatives while in care.
- Of all New Jersey children in kinship care in 2010, 11.8% were white, 12.6% black, 6.8% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 12.6% of more than one race or ethnicity.

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in New Jersey increased from 79,370 in 2010 to 83,753 in 2011, an increase of 5.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 34,896, a 4.3% increase from 2010.
- From 2009-10, for every 100 New Jersey families living in poverty, only 30 received TANF benefits.
- In 2011, $1,184,254,525 was spent in New Jersey on TANF assistance, including 20% on basic assistance, 4% on child care, 1% on transportation, and 75% on nonassistance.
- In 2011, 107,497,168 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)
in New Jersey, serving 168,467 participants.\textsuperscript{23}

- In 2011, New Jersey distributed $1,111,624,272 in child support funds, a 1.8% increase from 2010.\textsuperscript{24}
- In 2011 in New Jersey, 298,499 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 35% of them are families with children.\textsuperscript{25}

**CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2010, New Jersey had a monthly average of 38,400 children served by subsidized child care; 36,200 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 35,800 in 2008.\textsuperscript{26}
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in New Jersey, a family of three could make no more than $37,060, which is equivalent to 43% of the state’s median income.\textsuperscript{27}
- As of early 2012, New Jersey had 10,472 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.\textsuperscript{28}
- In 2011, Head Start served 15,966 New Jersey children, a 7.5% increase from 2010.\textsuperscript{29}

**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- In 2011, 539,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in New Jersey—60% of the total number of enrollees in the state.\textsuperscript{30}
- In 2011, New Jersey had 198,283 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, a 5.9% increase from 2010, when 187,211 children were enrolled.\textsuperscript{31}
- In 2011, New Jersey had 190,000 uninsured children, representing 9% of its child population.\textsuperscript{32}
- In 2010, 8,814 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Jersey.\textsuperscript{33}
- In 2010, 456 infants under age 1 died in New Jersey.\textsuperscript{34}
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in New Jersey was 10 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 38. This reflects a total rate of 20 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.\textsuperscript{35}
- Cumulative through 2011, 56,154 adults and adolescents, as well as 816 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in New Jersey.\textsuperscript{36}
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 42,000 children ages 12–17 and 523,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in New Jersey.\textsuperscript{37}

**VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- In 2011, 497 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in New Jersey.\textsuperscript{38}
- In 2011, 31,000 New Jersey teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.\textsuperscript{39}
- In 2011, 113,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.\textsuperscript{40}
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 26,000 children ages 12–17 in New Jersey needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.\textsuperscript{41}
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 27,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.\textsuperscript{42}
- In 2010, 38 New Jersey children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.66 per 100,000 children.\textsuperscript{43}

**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- In 2010, 52 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in New Jersey, a 6% increase from 49 in 2009.\textsuperscript{44}
• In 2011, 30,690 children younger than 18 were arrested in New Jersey, a 15.0% decrease from 35,989 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 2,011 were for violent crimes.45

• In 2010, 1,179 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in New Jersey.46

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE47

• 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.48

• 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.49

• 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.50

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR NEW JERSEY’S CHILDREN

• Out of 6,440 children in out-of-home care in New Jersey in 2011, only 3,854, or 60%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.51

• In 2010, New Jersey spent $914,568,776 for child welfare services. Of this amount, $308,362,634 was from federal funds, $606,176,142 from state funds, and $0 from local funds.52

• In 2010, of the $308,362,634 in federal funds received for child welfare, $14,635,869 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, $11,307,769 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, $100,012,385 was from Medicaid, $30,810,132 came from Social Services Block Grant, $12,340,000 was from TANF, and $7,533,679 came from other federal sources.53

• New Jersey received $90,310,847 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including $24,943,697 for maintenance payments, $58,204,566 for administration and child placement, $2,526,841 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and $3,305,417 for training.54

• New Jersey received $53,762,812 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including $32,940,057 for assistance payments, $18,795,922 for administration and child placement, and $1,842,639 for staff and provider training.55
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Senate:
Frank R. Lautenberg (D) Appropriations
324 Hart     224-3224     228-4054     Lautenberg.senate.gov     2014
Robert Menendez (D) Finance
528 Hart     224-4744     228-2197     Menendez.senate.gov     2018

House:
Robert E. Andrews (D-1st) Education & Workforce
Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd) Appropriations
2427 Rayburn     225-6572     225-3318     Lobiondo.house.gov     2014
Jon Daniel Runyan (R-3rd) Appropriations
1239 Longworth     225-4765     225-0778     Runyan.house.gov     2014
Christopher H. Smith (R-4th) Appropriations
2373 Rayburn     225-3765     225-7768     Chri smith.house.gov     2014
Scott Garrett (R-5th) Appropriations
Frank Jr. Pallone (D-6th) Appropriations
Leonard Lance (R-7th) Appropriations
133 Cannon     225-5361     225-9460     Lanace.house.gov     2014
Albio Sires (D-8th) Appropriations
2342 Rayburn     225-7919     226-0792     Sires.house.gov     2014
Bill Jr. Pascrell (D-9th) Appropriations
2370 Rayburn     225-5751     225-5782     Pascrell.house.gov     2014
Donald M. Payne (D-10th) Appropriations
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th) Appropriations
2306 Rayburn     225-5034     225-3186     Frelinghuysen.house.gov     2014
Rush D. Holt (D-12th) Appropriations
1214 Longworth     225-5801     225-6025     Holt.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
1. “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.
3. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
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11. Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
13. Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.
14. Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.
17. Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.
18. 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.
Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.
Note: The percent are a CWLA calculation.
Note: All program data can be accessed at http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


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Special tabulation of AFDCS by NDACAN and CWLA.


Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


* 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.


* Ibid.


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


* Ibid.

* 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.

* Ibid.

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