

RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN

Rhode Island's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	1,051,302	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	21.9%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	219,074	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	19.1%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	14.7%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	28.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Rhode Island had 11,836 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 6,477 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 3,131 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island, a rate of 14.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 15.6% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 93.8% were neglected, 14.3% were physically abused, and 4.1% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 18.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 3 children in Rhode Island died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 1,806 children in Rhode Island lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 2,086 children in 2010. In 2011, 540 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 430 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 34.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of Rhode Island children in out-of-home care in 2011, 48.5% were white, 14.7% black, 23.7% Hispanic, 0.9% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.5% Asian or Pacific Islander and 7.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,403 children exiting out-of-home care in Rhode Island in 2011, 56.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 201 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Rhode Island, a 9.2% increase from 184 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 1,806 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 270 or 15.0% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 6,421 Rhode Island grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 1,806 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 461 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all Rhode Island children in kinship care in 2010, 13.5% were white, 3.5% black, 5.7% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 3.5% 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 Rhode Island decreased from 17,470 in 2010 to 15,473 in 2011, an decrease of 11.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 6,547, a 12.0% decrease from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Rhode Island families living in poverty, only 33 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$139,895,762 was spent in Rhode Island on TANF assistance, including 26% on basic assistance, 0% on child

care, 0% on transportation, and 74% on nonassistance.²³

- In 2011, 14,682,419 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Rhode Island, serving 24,515 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, Rhode Island distributed \$63,842,716 in child support funds, a 2.4% increase from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in Rhode Island, 37,939 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 26% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Rhode Island had a monthly average of 5,600 children served by subsidized child care; 6,100 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 6,000 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Rhode Island, a family of three could make no more than \$33,354, which is equivalent to 45% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, Rhode Island had no waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 2,966 Rhode Island children, a 3.7% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 70,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Rhode Island—41% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, Rhode Island had 24,815 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.7% increase from 2010, when 23,253 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, Rhode Island had 13,000 uninsured children, representing 6% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 862 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Rhode Island.³⁴
- In 2010, 90 infants under age 1 died in Rhode Island.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Rhode Island was 14 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 32. This reflects a total rate of 22 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 3,027 adults and adolescents, as well as 28 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Rhode Island.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12–17 and 90,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Rhode Island.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 141 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Rhode Island.³⁹
- In 2011, 4,000 Rhode Island teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 14,000 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 4,000 children ages 12–17 in Rhode Island needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 4,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, less than 10 Rhode Island children younger than 20 committed suicide.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, fewer than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Rhode Island, as was the case in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 3,844 children younger than 18 were arrested in Rhode Island, a 24.0% decrease from 5,033 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 115 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 249 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Rhode Island.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 RHODE ISLAND'S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,806 children in out-of-home care in Rhode Island in 2011, only 571, or 32%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, Rhode Island spent \$195,828,645 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$78,061,441 was from federal funds, \$117,767,204 from state funds, and \$ from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$78,061,441 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$23,150,228 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$2,706,732 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$38,091,233 was from Medicaid, \$ came from Social Services Block Grant, \$7,999,622 was from TANF, and \$6,113,626 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- Rhode Island received \$13,977,121 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$6,051,780 for maintenance payments, \$5,870,268 for administration and child placement, \$1,370,377 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$134,954 for training.⁵⁵
- Rhode Island received \$8,698,808 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$7,350,998 for assistance payments, \$939,623 for administration and child placement, and \$408,187 for staff and provider training.⁵⁶

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Jack Reed (D) <i>Appropriations</i>	728 Hart	224-4642	224-4680	Reed.senate.gov	2014
Sheldon Whitehouse (D) <i>H.E.L.P.</i> <i>Judiciary</i>	717 Hart	224-2921	228-6362	Whitehouse.senate.gov	2018
House:					
David N. Cicilline (D-1 st)	128 Cannon	225-4911	225-3290	Cicilline.house.gov	2014
Jim Langevin (D-2 nd)	109 Cannon	225-2735	225-5976	Langevin.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

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⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates*. Retrieved January 18, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

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>.

⁹ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2012: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011 & Table 3-8: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2011*. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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¹² Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

¹³ 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/entryexit2011.pdf>.

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¹⁴ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁵ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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¹⁹ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

²⁰ 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.

²² 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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²⁵ Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2012). *Preliminary Report FY 2011: State Boxscores for FY 2011*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy2011-preliminary-report-state-box-scores>.

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- Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

⁴⁶ 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.

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⁴⁸ 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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⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ 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.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

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