

WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

West Virginia's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	1,855,364	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	25.8%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	386,831	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	23.5%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	18.6%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	30.1%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, West Virginia had 33,445 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 17,225 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 4,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect in West Virginia, a rate of 10.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 3.3% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 53.4% were neglected, 34.3% were physically abused, and 4.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 43.7% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- In 2011, 16 children in West Virginia died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹¹
- In 2011, 4,475 children in West Virginia lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 4,097 children in 2010. In 2011, 1,568 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 607 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 1.0% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹³
- Of West Virginia children in out-of-home care in 2011, 85.4% were white, 4.7% black, 1.4% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 7.2% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁴

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,030 children exiting out-of-home care in West Virginia in 2011, 61.3% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁵
- In 2011, 698 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in West Virginia, a 5.4% increase from 662 in 2010.¹⁶
- Of the 4,475 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,436 or 32.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2011, approximately 20,354 West Virginia grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- Of the 4,475 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 745 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹
- Of all West Virginia children in kinship care in 2010, 14.4% were white, 0.7% black, 0.1% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.7% 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 West Virginia increased from 21,808 in 2010 to 23,642 in 2011, an increase of 8.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 10,376, a 6.6% increase from 2010.²¹
- From 2009-10, for every 100 West Virginia families living in poverty, only 21 received TANF benefits.²²
- In 2011, \$171,955,410 was spent in West Virginia on TANF assistance, including 20% on basic assistance, 3% on child care, 9% on transportation, and 57% on nonassistance.²³

- In 2011, 27,046,481 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in West Virginia, serving 49,117 participants.²⁴
- In 2011, West Virginia distributed \$190,074,463 in child support funds, a 7.1% decrease from 2010.²⁵
- In 2011 in West Virginia, 41,046 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 27% of them are families with children.²⁶

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, West Virginia had a monthly average of 9,100 children served by subsidized child care; 7,000 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 8,300 in 2008.²⁷
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in West Virginia, a family of three could make no more than \$27,792, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²⁸
- As of early 2012, West Virginia had no waiting list for child care assistance.²⁹
- In 2011, Head Start served 8,234 West Virginia children, a 8.2% increase from 2010.³⁰

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 171,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in West Virginia—51% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³¹
- In 2011, West Virginia had 37,631 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.2% increase from 2010, when 37,539 children were enrolled.³²
- In 2011, West Virginia had 37,000 uninsured children, representing 10% of its child population.³³
- In 2010, 1,880 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in West Virginia.³⁴
- In 2010, 150 infants under age 1 died in West Virginia.³⁵
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in West Virginia was 21 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76. This reflects a total rate of 45 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁶
- Cumulative through 2011, 1,898 adults and adolescents, as well as 11 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in West Virginia.³⁷
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 8,000 children ages 12–17 and 110,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in West Virginia.³⁸

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 53 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in West Virginia.³⁹
- In 2011, 11,000 West Virginia teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 39,000 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 West Virginia needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 5,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2010, 10 West Virginia children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.28 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 11 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in West Virginia, a 27% decrease from 15 in 2009.⁴⁵
- In 2011, 1,882 children younger than 18 were arrested in West Virginia, a 4.0% decrease from 1,954 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 80 were for violent crimes.⁴⁶
- In 2010, 561 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in West Virginia.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 WEST VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

- Out of 4,475 children in out-of-home care in West Virginia in 2011, only 870, or 19%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵²
- In 2010, West Virginia spent \$305,609,337 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$182,505,175 was from federal funds, \$123,104,162 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵³
- In 2010, of the \$182,505,175 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$57,473,373 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$4,427,964 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$ was from Medicaid, \$21,071,758 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$99,158,679 was from TANF, and \$373,401 came from other federal sources.⁵⁴
- West Virginia received \$19,690,558 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$13,911,074 for maintenance payments, \$3,609,400 for administration and child placement, \$1,745,109 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$597,541 for training.⁵⁵
- West Virginia received \$18,763,735 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$17,227,720 for assistance payments, \$354,847 for administration and child placement, and \$1,181,168 for staff and provider training.⁵⁶

Governor: Earl Ray Tomblin (D)

www.wv.gov

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, E., Charleston, WV 25305

Next Election: 2016

Tel: 1-888-438-2731

	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
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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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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.

¹⁰ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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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.

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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.

²¹ U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2012). TANF: Total Number of Recipients. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2011-recipient-tanf>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

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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.

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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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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 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.