

WYOMING'S CHILDREN

Wyoming's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	568,158	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	15.6%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	135,091	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	13.5%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	11.3%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	19.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Wyoming had 6,130 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3040 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2011, 703 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Wyoming, a rate of 5.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.8% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 75.10% were neglected, 4.80% were physically abused, and 10.0% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has decreased 8.9% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.¹⁰
- Wyoming responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 5441 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.¹¹
- In 2011, 1 children in Wyoming died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹²
- In 2011, 886 children in Wyoming lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 981 children in 2010. In 2011, 247 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 143 were 16 or older.¹³
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 28.0% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.¹⁴
- Of Wyoming children in out-of-home care in 2011, 76.0% were white, 4.5% black, 15.0% Hispanic, 1.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.1% Asian or Pacific Islander and 1.5% of more than one race or ethnicity.¹⁵

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,014 children exiting out-of-home care in Wyoming in 2011, 66.9% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹⁶
- In 2011, 73 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Wyoming, a 2.7% decrease from 75 in 2010.¹⁷
- Of the 886 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 127 or 14.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁸
- In 2011, approximately 4,418 Wyoming grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁹
- Of the 886 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 148 were living with relatives while in care.²⁰
- Of all Wyoming children in kinship care in 2010, 12.2% were white, 0.9% black, 2.9% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.9% 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 Wyoming decreased from 667 in 2010 to 617 in 2011, an decrease of 7.4%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 314, a 4.0% decrease from 2010.²²

- From 2009-10, for every 100 Wyoming families living in poverty, only 4 received TANF benefits.²³
- In 2011, \$36,974,799 was spent in Wyoming on TANF assistance, including 37% on basic assistance, 4% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 59% on nonassistance.²⁴
- In 2011, 4,911,337 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Wyoming, serving 12,385 participants.²⁵
- In 2011, Wyoming distributed \$62,857,790 in child support funds, a 3.9% increase from 2010.²⁶
- In 2011 in Wyoming, 10,566 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 21% of them are families with children.²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Wyoming had a monthly average of 5,000 children served by subsidized child care; 4,500 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 4,400 in 2008.²⁸
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Wyoming, a family of three could make no more than \$44,088, which is equivalent to 69% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2012, Wyoming had no waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2011, Head Start served 1,824 Wyoming children, a 2.0% increase from 2010.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 44,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Wyoming—65% of the total number of enrollees in the state.³²
- In 2011, Wyoming had 8,586 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.9% increase from 2010, when 8,342 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2011, Wyoming had 14,000 uninsured children, representing 10% of its child population.³⁴
- In 2010, 679 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Wyoming.³⁵
- In 2010, 24 infants under age 1 died in Wyoming.³⁶
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Wyoming was 17 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 69. This reflects a total rate of 39 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2011, 305 adults and adolescents, as well as 2 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Wyoming.³⁸
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12–17 and 36,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Wyoming.³⁹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 24 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Wyoming.⁴⁰
- In 2011, 1,000 Wyoming teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴¹
- In 2011, 8,000 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 2,000 children ages 12–17 in Wyoming needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the

past year.⁴⁴

- In 2010, less than 10 Wyoming children younger than 20 committed suicide.⁴⁵

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, fewer than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Wyoming, a a was the case in 2009.⁴⁶
- In 2011, 4,782 children younger than 18 were arrested in Wyoming, a 14.0% decrease from 5,581 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 49 were for violent crimes.⁴⁷
- In 2010, 255 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Wyoming.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 WYOMING'S CHILDREN

- Out of 886 children in out-of-home care in Wyoming in 2011, only 113, or 13%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵³
- In 2010, Wyoming spent \$49,018,438 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$12,269,443 was from federal funds, \$36,748,995 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁵⁴
- In 2010, of the \$12,269,443 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$3,416,584 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$1,588,425 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$0 was from Medicaid, \$3,008,732 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$3,069,455 was from TANF, and \$1,186,247 came from other federal sources.⁵⁵
- Wyoming received \$2,269,233 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$741,929 for maintenance payments, \$1,054,915 for administration and child placement, \$462,013 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$123,649 for training.⁵⁶
- Wyoming received \$869,407 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$834,210 for assistance payments, and \$35,197 for administration and child placement.⁵⁷

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Senate:					
John Barrasso (R)	307 Dirksen	224-6441	224-1724	Barrasso.senate.gov	2018
Michael B. Enzi (R) <i>H.E.L.P., RM Finance</i>	379A Russell	224-3424	228-0359	Enzi.senate.gov	2014
House:					
Cynthia M. Lummis (R-AL)	113 Cannon	225-2311	225-3057	Lummis.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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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>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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.

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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: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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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.