

NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN

New Jersey's Children At a Glance¹

State Population ²	8,821,155	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	14.7%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	2,042,425	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	13.2%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	10.4%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	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.⁸
- The number of child victims has increased 9.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.⁹
- In 2011, 22 children in New Jersey died as a result of abuse or neglect.¹⁰
- 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.¹¹
- 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 2007.¹²
- 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.¹³

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.¹⁴
- 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 2010.¹⁵
- Of the 6,440 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,260 or 35.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁶
- In 2011, approximately 45,869 New Jersey grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁷
- Of the 6,440 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,247 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁸
- 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.¹⁹

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 2010.²⁰
- From 2009-10, for every 100 New Jersey families living in poverty, only 30 received TANF benefits.²¹
- 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.²²
- 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.²³

- In 2011, New Jersey distributed \$1,111,624,272 in child support funds, a 1.8% increase from 2010.²⁴
- 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.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 2008.²⁶
- 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.²⁷
- As of early 2012, New Jersey had 10,472 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁸
- In 2011, Head Start served 15,966 New Jersey children, a 7.5% increase from 2010.²⁹

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.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.³¹
- In 2011, New Jersey had 190,000 uninsured children, representing 9% of its child population.³²
- In 2010, 8,814 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in New Jersey.³³
- In 2010, 456 infants under age 1 died in New Jersey.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 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2011, 56,154 adults and adolescents, as well as 816 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in New Jersey.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.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 497 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in New Jersey.³⁸
- In 2011, 31,000 New Jersey teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.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.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.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.⁴²
- In 2010, 38 New Jersey children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.66 per 100,000 children.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 2009.⁴⁴

- 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

Governor: Chris Christie (R)

www.nj.gov Next Election: 2013

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	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Frank R. Lautenberg (D) <i>Appropriations</i>	324 Hart	224-3224	228-4054	Lautenberg.senate.gov	2014
Robert Menendez (D) <i>Finance</i>	528 Hart	224-4744	228-2197	Menendez.senate.gov	2018
House:					
Robert E. Andrews (D-1 st) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	2265 Rayburn	225-6501	225-6583	Andrews.house.gov	2014
Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2 nd)	2427 Rayburn	225-6572	225-3318	Lobiondo.house.gov	2014
Jon Daniel Runyan (R-3 rd)	1239 Longworth	225-4765	225-0778	Runyan.house.gov	2014
Christopher H. Smith (R-4 th)	2373 Rayburn	225-3765	225-7768	Chrissmith.house.gov	2014
Scott Garrett (R-5 th)	2232 Rayburn	225-4465	225-9048	Garrett.house.gov	2014
Frank Jr. Pallone (D-6 th) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	237 Cannon	225-4671	225-9665	Pallone.house.gov	2014
Leonard Lance (R-7 th) <i>Energy & Commerce</i>	133 Cannon	225-5361	225-9460	Lanace.house.gov	2014
Albio Sires (D-8 th)	2342 Rayburn	225-7919	226-0792	Sires.house.gov	2014
Bill Jr. Pascrell (D-9 th) <i>Ways & Means</i>	2370 Rayburn	225-5751	225-5782	Pascrell.house.gov	2014
Donald M. Payne (D-10 th)	103 Cannon	225-3436	225-4160	Payne.house.gov	2014
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11 th) <i>Appropriations</i>	2306 Rayburn	225-5034	225-3186	Frelinghuysen.house.gov	2014
Rush D. Holt (D-12 th) <i>Education & Workforce</i>	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

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 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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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.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

¹⁶ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

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¹⁸ Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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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Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2010 TANF Financial Data: Table B.2: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures on Assistance in FY2011*. Retrieved December 21, 2011 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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²³ Food and Nutrition Service. (2013). *Program Data: WIC Program: Food Costs*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from [http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood\\$.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/24wicfood$.htm).

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Note: All program data can be accessed at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wicmain.htm>.

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Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. (2011). Head Start Program Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2010. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/factsheets/fHeadStartProgr.htm>.

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³⁰ Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2012). Monthly Medicaid Enrollment for Children (in thousands). Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=612&cat=4>.

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³⁵ Martin, J., Hamilton, B., Ventura, S., Osterman, M., Wilson, E., Mathew, T.J.. (2012). National Vital Statistics Report: Births: Final Data for 2010- Table 12. Birth rate, by age of mother : United States, each state and territory, 2010-. Retrieved March 7, 2013 from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf.

³⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 2011. Vol. 23: Table 20: Stage 3 (AIDS), by area of residence, 2011 and cumulative—United States and 6 dependent areas. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/surveillance/resources/reports/2011report/pdf/2011_HIV_Surveillance_Report_vol_23.pdf#Page=69.

³⁷ 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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⁴¹ 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 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs. Retrieved February 20, 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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⁴⁷ 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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⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (2012). *Foster Care FY2003–FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf>.

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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⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ 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.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

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