

# OREGON'S CHILDREN 2006

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## Oregon's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) <sup>1</sup>	3,594,586
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>2</sup>	852,357
State Poverty Rate (2004) <sup>3</sup>	11.7
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) <sup>4</sup>	15.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) <sup>5</sup>	13.0

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 42,455 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 20,552 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2003, 10,368 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Oregon, a rate of 12.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 12.4% increase from 2002. Of these children, 25.6% were neglected, 11.1% were physically abused, and 10.7% were sexually abused.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2003, 14 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Oregon.<sup>8</sup>
- On September 30, 2003, 9,381 children in Oregon lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 9,101 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 38.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 11.9% were 16 or older.<sup>9</sup>
- Of all Oregon children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 58.5% were white, 7.5% were black, 9.9% were Hispanic, 8.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 15.3% were of other races and ethnicities.<sup>10</sup>

## PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 4,244 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 62.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2003, 849 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Oregon, a 23.9% decrease from 1,115 in 2002.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 9,381 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 2,610 or 27.8% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>13</sup>

## KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 22,955 Oregon grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>14</sup>
- Of the 9,381 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 19.8% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>15</sup>
- Of all Oregon children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 55.1% were white, 6.7% were black, 10.7% were Hispanic, 10% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 17.5% were other races.<sup>16</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Oregon increased from 42,090 in March 2004 to 46,354 in March 2005, an increase of 10.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 20,240, a 10.3% increase from March 2004.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Oregon was at 54.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2004, Oregon spent \$242,993,015 in TANF funds, including 35% on basic assistance, 9.6% on child care, 4.9% on transportation, and 47.5% on nonassistance.<sup>19</sup>

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- In 2004, Oregon collected and distributed \$298,280,030 in child support funds, an increase of 3.2% from 2003.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon was \$670 per month, or 57.8% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.<sup>21</sup>

### **C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T**

- In 2004, an estimated monthly average of 21,200 of Oregon's children received subsidized child care; 22,100 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 24,200 in 2002.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Oregon, a family of three could make no more than \$24,132, which is equivalent to 48% of the state's median income.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2005, Oregon had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2004, Head Start served 8,716 Oregon children, a 3.7% decrease from 2003.<sup>25</sup>

### **H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E**

- In 2001, 249,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 41.9% of the total number of enrollees in Oregon.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2001, 14,525 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 5.8% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Oregon.<sup>27</sup>
- Oregon spent \$6,788 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2004, Oregon had 46,720 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 4.4% increase from 2003, when 44,752 children were enrolled.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Oregon was 17.1 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 60.4 births. This reflects a total rate of 34.4 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>30</sup>
- As of December 2003, 5,580 adults and adolescents, as well as 19 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Oregon.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 28,000 children ages 12–17, and 245,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.<sup>32</sup>

### **V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H**

- In 2004, 6% of Oregon teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 45.5% decrease from 2000.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2004, 8% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 15,000 children ages 12–17 in Oregon needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 17,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2002, 24 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.52 per 100,000 children in the population.<sup>37</sup>

### **J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N**

- In 2002, 10 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Oregon, a 233.3% increase from 3 in 2001.<sup>38</sup>

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- In 2004, 30,109 children younger than 18 were arrested in Oregon, a 13% increase from 26,649 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 830 were for a violent crime and 284 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>39</sup>
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,508 children in juvenile correction facilities in Oregon.<sup>40</sup>

### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR OREGON'S CHILDREN

- In 2002, Oregon spent \$259,147,279 for child welfare services. *Child welfare services* refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this number, 67.4% was from federal funds, 30.5% was from state funds, and 2% was from local funds.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2002, of the \$174,773,370 in federal funds received for child welfare, 29.1% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 31.6% was from Medicaid, 7.2% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 24.9% was from TANF, 1.8% came from Supplemental Security Income, 1.1% was from Social Security Survivors Benefits, and 1.2% came from other federal sources.<sup>42</sup>
- Out of 9,381 children in out-of-home care in Oregon on September 30, 2003, only 4,907 children, or 52.3%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>43</sup>

### OREGON'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- 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.<sup>44</sup>
- 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.<sup>45</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Oregon was \$33,480 ; the median income for a family of four in Oregon was \$60,262.<sup>47</sup>

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