

CHILD WELFARE

In the United States

January 2005



Children's Defense Fund

United States' Children₁

Child Population (2003)	73,043,506
Children Living in Poverty (2001/2002)	12,518,168
Child Poverty Rate	17.6%

Child Abuse and Neglect₂

Child Victims (2002) 895,569

Types of Abuse and Neglect*

Neglect and Medical Neglect	60.5%
Physical Abuse	18.6%
Sexual Abuse	9.9%
Psychological and Other Maltreatment	25.4%

*Percentages may not total 100% because abuse or neglect can be reported in one or more categories

Foster Care₃

Number of Children in Foster Care* 2002	524,560
Number of Children in Foster Care 2001	536,056
Average Length of Stay in Foster Care	32.6 mos.
Children with 2 or Fewer Placements	61%
Abused and Neglected While in Care	0.50%

*Foster Care includes family foster care, group care and institutional care

Permanency₄

Number of Exits from Foster Care 2001 263,000

Exit	Percent
Adoption	18.0%
Reunification	57.0%
Legal Guardianship	3.0%
Other	22.0%
Missing Data	0.0%

Percent of Children Reunified:

Within 12 months 65.7%

Percent of Children Adopted:

Within 24 months 22.3%

Number of Children Waiting for Adoption 126,000

Relative Caregivers₅

Number of Children Living With Relatives Without Either Parent Present (not necessarily in foster care) 2,502,380

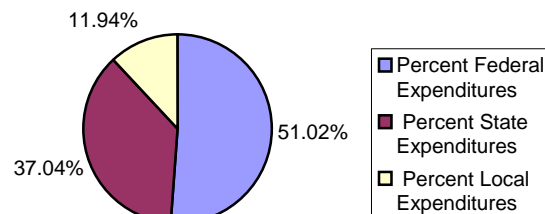
Subsidized Guardianship Program? N/A

Subsidized guardianship programs make it possible for eligible children to live permanently in the care of a legal guardian who has agreed to provide a safe and loving home for them and who receives ongoing payments to help provide for the needs of the child. In many cases, the child's guardian is a relative or a close family friend.

Sources of Child Welfare Spending.

FY 2002	Amount
Federal Expenditures	\$11,304,449,369
State Expenditures	\$8,206,201,882
Local Expenditures	\$2,645,594,880
Total	\$22,156,246,128

Sources of Spending FY 2002 (By Percent)



Federal Child Welfare Spending⁶

FY 2002	Amount	Percent of Total Federal Spending
Title IV-B	\$548,962,485	4.86%
Title IV-E	\$5,553,276,701	49.12%
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$1,305,492,045	11.55%
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	\$2,296,778,863	20.32%
Medicaid	\$1,102,120,905	9.75%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$71,784,472	0.64%

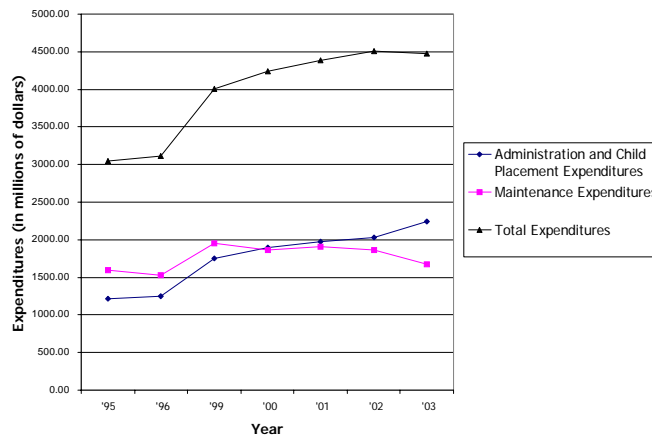
Percentages may not total 100% because some states could not categorize all federal spending by source.

Federal Title IV-E Spending,

Foster Care Expenditures FY 2003			Adoption Assistance Expenditures FY 2003		
Type	Amount	Percent	Type	Amount	Percent
Maintenance Payments	\$ 1,676,446,480	37.5%	Adoption Assistance Payments	\$1,162,387,477	79.5%
Administration and Child Placement Services	\$2,247,910,389	50.12%	Administration	\$264,044,547	18%
SACWIS	\$ 125,376,693	2.8%	Training	\$ 36,063,244	2.5%
Training	\$214,064,182	4.8%	Total	\$ 1,463,025,722	
Demonstration Projects	\$207,679,992	4.6%			
Total	\$4,471,477,736				

- ◆ In 2002, 247, 226 (47.0%)* Children in Foster Care Received Title IV-E Foster Care Payments
- ◆ In 2002, 220,115 (82.46%) Children Adopted From Foster Care Received IV-E Funded Adoption Assistance Payments

Federal Title IV-E Foster Care Spending 1995-2003



*Average monthly number of children in foster care divided by the number of children in foster care at the end of the year

Sources and Notes

- 1) The Children's Defense Fund, *The State of America's Children 2004* (Washington D.C.; Children's Defense Fund, July 2004).
- 2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2002* (Washington D.C.; Government Printing Office, 2004) Tables 3-2 and 3-4.
- 3) The number of children in foster care is the number in foster care on September 30th of the referenced year. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)*, as of August, 2004, <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/dis/tables/entryexit2002.htm>, updated November 16, 2004 ; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001: Annual Report* (Washington D.C.; Government Printing Office, 2004), and U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, *2004 Greenbook* (Washington D.C.; Government Printing Office, 2004) Chart 11-36 & 11-38.
- 4) *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001: and Annual Report; Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)*, as of March 2003, at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/report8.htm>.
- 5) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census American Factfinder Advanced Query*. Calculations by CDF of the number of children living in relative-headed households without either parent present; and Children's Defense Fund *States' Subsidized Guardianship Laws At A Glance* (Washington D.C.; Children's Defense Fund, 2004).
- 6) Cynthia Andrews Scarcella, Roseana Bess, Erica Hecht Zielewski, Lindsay Warner, and Rob Geen, *The Cost of Protecting Vulnerable Children IV: How Child Welfare Funding Fared during the Recession*, (Washington D.C.; The Urban Institute, 2004).
- 7) U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, *1996, 1998, 2000, and 2004 Greenbook*; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Expenditure Data for FYs 2000-2003, and Ursula Gilmore and Elizabeth Oppenheim, *Interstate Movement of Children Receiving Adoption Assistance* (Washington D.C.; American Public Human Services Association, 2003).

For more information please contact the Child Welfare and Mental Health Division at 202-662-3568 or bcndliffe@childrensdefense.org