



## The State of Missouri's Children: 2009

While the federal poverty level for a family of four is \$21,200<sup>1</sup>, the Missouri Department of Economic Development reports that it takes between \$28,000 and \$39,000 for a family of four in Missouri to meet essential needs such as housing, food, and health care.<sup>2</sup>

### **Poverty and Missouri's Children**

- The number of children *under the age of five* living in poverty increased from 20% in 2003 to 23% in 2005.<sup>3</sup>
- By 2005, the number of children age 5-17 living in poverty increased from 15% in 2003 to 18%.<sup>3</sup>
- Among children who reside in low income families (i.e., family income is less than twice the federal poverty threshold) in 2007<sup>4</sup>:
  - 44% are children under age 6 and 39% are children under age 18.
  - 51% are children who have at least one parent who is employed full-time year round.
  - 19% are children whose parent(s) is not employed.
  - 56% are Latino children, an increase from 52% in 2006.
  - 72% are Black children, an increase from 63% in 2005.
  - 33% are White children, a slight increase from 31% in 2005.
  - 56% reside in rural communities, an increase from 52% in 2005.
  - 50% reside in urban communities, an increase from 45% in 2005.
  - 30% reside in suburban communities, an increase from 26% in 2005.
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Missouri was at 34% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>5</sup>
- In St. Louis City, 32% of the children are poor, which is down from 39% last year, yet remains significantly higher than both the state and national average of 18%.<sup>6</sup>

### **Education of Missouri's Children**

- When compared to other Midwest states, the eligibility level for child care subsidy funds is unfavorably low.<sup>7</sup> However, Missouri increased the eligibility level from 110% of poverty to 128% of poverty in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- The average annual cost for full-time center-based infant care is \$6,539 and \$4,836 for a 4-year old child; this is 30% of the median income for a single parent.<sup>9</sup>
- Between 2001 and 2007, Missouri added 10,000 licensed child care spaces and the number of accredited child care facilities also increased from 345 to 547 during this same period.<sup>8</sup> School entry assessment data, however, indicates 25% of children are not academically ready to enter kindergarten.<sup>8</sup>
- The number of children with Limited English Proficiency increased from 11,535 in 2002 to 19,092 in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, the percent of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students performing below proficiency, according to the U.S. Department of Education, for their grade level in reading was 68% and 69% in math.<sup>10</sup> Only 33% and 19% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders meet *basic* reading and math levels respectively.<sup>9</sup>
- Drop-out rates for 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders has increased from 3.7% in 2005 to 4.1% in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- From 2002-2006 there was a steady decrease in the number of high school graduates going into the workforce and more entering either 2-year or 4-year college or university programs upon graduation in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- When comparing the cost of child care for a 4-year-old child living in an urban area of Missouri, the cost exceeds tuition at a 4-year public college (\$4,784 versus \$3,701).<sup>11</sup>

### **Nutrition of Missouri's Children**

- The percentage of children living in families receiving food stamps increased from 26% in 2002 to 31% in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- The number of students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program has increased by 36,000 since 2002 for a total of 365,919 students in 2006.<sup>8</sup>

### ***Health of Missouri's Children***

- The percent of Missouri mothers receiving late or no prenatal care in 2005 was 2.3%; the national average is 3.5%.<sup>6</sup>
- Of all Missouri babies born in 2005, 8.1% were low birth weight compared with the 2004 rate of 8.3%.<sup>6</sup>
- The number of two year old children properly immunized has increased since 2002 from 78% to 84% in 2006. However, the rate of immunization was 85% and 86% for 2003 and 2004, which indicates a slight decrease in the past few years.<sup>6</sup>
- Of all Missouri's children, 39% are eligible for Medicaid/SCHIP, but only 81% of eligible children were enrolled in 2007.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Welfare of Missouri's Children***

- In 2007, there were 6,576 children who were victims of substantiated child abuse\*, which represents a steady decline from 10,080 in 2003.<sup>13</sup>
    - Neglect: 3,291 substantiated cases (50%)
    - Physical Abuse: 1,916 substantiated cases (29.1%)
    - Sexual Abuse: 1,746 substantiated cases (26.6%)
    - Emotional Maltreatment: 404 substantiated cases (6.1%)
    - Medical Neglect: 187 substantiated cases (2.8%)
    - Educational Neglect: 142 substantiated cases (2.2%)
- \*Children could be classified in up to 6 types of abuse so the number of cases exceeds 6,576 and the percents add up to more than 100%
- In 2006, there were 27 children who died from substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect. That number increased to 46 in 2007.<sup>13</sup>
  - In 2007, Department of Social Services had custody of 9,818 children who spent an average of 27 months in foster care (4,614 with foster care parents; 2,750 in relative care; 1,577 in residential treatment facilities; 110 in pre-adoptive homes.)<sup>14</sup>
  - The number of children aging out of foster care remained stable between 2003 and 2006 with 353, 363, 328, 362 children aging out of the system for those 4 years respectively.<sup>8</sup>
  - In 2006, there were 1,268 children adopted from state custody and 1,843 children waiting for adoption from state custody. Over half of the children in state custody are 9-18 years of age (29 % age 15+).<sup>8</sup>

### ***Teen Pregnancy in Missouri***

- In 2006, there were 2,828 births to teen mothers between the ages of 15-17, an increase from 2,555 in 2005.<sup>8</sup>
- The number of babies born to mothers under the age of 15 decreased from 134 in 2000<sup>7</sup> to 107 in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- The number of births to mothers with less than a high school diploma has increased from 14,267 in 2001 to 15,279 in 2006. Despite the increase, the rate has remained less than 1 in 5 of all births in Missouri.<sup>8</sup>

### ***Substance Use by Missouri's Children***

- Between 2005/2006, an estimated 43,000 children ages 12-17 were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol, which is a decrease of 5,000 from the 2003/2004 estimates of 48,000.<sup>15</sup>
- Among Missouri students in grades 6-12:
  - Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are the most commonly used substances and the rate of use for all three substances increases with age.<sup>16</sup>
  - The percentage of students reporting recent alcohol use by grade level was 7% among 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 24% among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 39% among 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 50% among 12<sup>th</sup> graders.<sup>16</sup>
  - The average rate of binge drinking (5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row) was 29% for 30-day prior use, and highest among 12<sup>th</sup> graders (35%).<sup>15</sup>

### ***Violence and Missouri's Children***

- Between 2006 and 2007, there was a 20% decrease in juvenile arrests (40,093 children younger than 18 were arrested in 2007<sup>17</sup> compared to 49,659 arrests in 2006<sup>18</sup>). While these decreases in juvenile arrests are positive, the 2007 numbers are still a 33% increase over the 2005 arrests of 26,874 youth.<sup>19</sup>
- Of the juvenile arrests in 2007, 540 were for possession of a weapon and 1,431 were for violent crimes.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2003, 1,413 children were in juvenile correction facilities in Missouri compared to 1,293 in 2006.<sup>20</sup>
- In Missouri, 43 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in 2006, compared with 44 in 2005 and 37 in 2004.<sup>21</sup>

Kathy R. Thornburg  
Hailey Stout  
Jacqueline L. Scott  
January 2009

- 
- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008). THE 2008 HHS poverty guidelines. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08Poverty.shtml>
  - <sup>2</sup> Citizens for Missouri's Children. (2005). *Kids count in Missouri 2004 data book*. St. Louis: Citizens for Missouri's children.
  - <sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau. (2008). Small area income and poverty estimates: 2005. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saipe/saipe.cgi>
  - <sup>4</sup> National Center for Children in Poverty. (2008). *Missouri state profile*. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from [http://nccp.org/profiles/index\\_MO.html](http://nccp.org/profiles/index_MO.html)
  - <sup>5</sup> Child Welfare League of America. (2008). Missouri's children 2008. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from <http://cwla.org/advocacy/statefactsheets/2008/missouri.htm>
  - <sup>6</sup> Annie Casey Foundation. (2008). Data center profiles by geographic region. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from [http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/profile\\_results.jsp?r=331&d=1](http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/profile_results.jsp?r=331&d=1)
  - <sup>7</sup> Citizens for Missouri's Children. (2007). *Kids count in Missouri 2006 data book*. St. Louis: Citizens for Missouri's children.
  - <sup>8</sup> Citizens for Missouri's Children. (2008). *Kids count in Missouri 2007 data book*. St. Louis: Citizens for Missouri's Children. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from [http://www.mokids.org/portals/0/pdfs/2007\\_Kids\\_Count\\_Databook.pdf](http://www.mokids.org/portals/0/pdfs/2007_Kids_Count_Databook.pdf)
  - <sup>9</sup> National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. (2008). *2008 Child care in the state of: Missouri*. Retrieved October 31, 2008 from <http://www.naccrra.org/randd/data/docs/MO.pdf>
  - <sup>10</sup> Children's Defense Fund. (2006). Children in Missouri. Retrieved November 14, 2008 from [http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/CITS06\\_mo2.pdf?docID=5481](http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/CITS06_mo2.pdf?docID=5481)
  - <sup>11</sup> Children's Defense Fund. (2006). *State of America's children*. Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund.
  - <sup>12</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. (2008). Children's health insurance status and Medicaid/SCHIP eligibility and enrollment status, 2007 state report. Retrieved November 14, 2008 from <http://www.aap.org/research/cps.pdf>
  - <sup>13</sup> Missouri Department of Social Services: Children's Division. (2008). *Child abuse and neglect calendar year 2007 annual report*. Retrieved November 14, 2008 from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/re/pdf/can/cancy07.pdf>
  - <sup>14</sup> Missouri Department of Social Services. (2007). Foster care statistical information. *Children's Division*. Retrieved November 16, 2008 from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/fostercare/fpstats.htm>
  - <sup>15</sup> Smith, R. C., Lundy, C. J., & Lister, A. R. (2008). Status report on Missouri's drug and alcohol problems. *Missouri Department of Mental Health: Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*. Retrieved November 17, 2008 from <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/rpts/a2.pdf>
  - <sup>16</sup> Smith, R. C., Ihenacho, B. M., & Lundy, C. J. (2007). Status report on Missouri's drug and alcohol problems. *Missouri Department of Mental Health: Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse*. Retrieved November 17, 2008 from <http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/ada/rpts/2007StatusReport.htm>
  - <sup>17</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2008). Crime in the United States, 2007. (Table 69). Retrieved November 17, 2008 from [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table\\_69.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/data/table_69.html)
  - <sup>18</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2007). Crime in the United States, 2006. (Table 69). Retrieved November 17, 2008 from [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table\\_69.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2006/data/table_69.html)
  - <sup>19</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). Crime in the United States, 2005. (Table 69). Retrieved November 17, 2008 from [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table\\_69.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_69.html)
  - <sup>20</sup> National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2008). Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook: US and state profiles. Retrieved November 17, 2008 from <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/asp/Selection.asp>
  - <sup>21</sup> Missouri Department of Social Services. (2007). Missouri child fatality review annual report: 2006. Retrieved November 20, 2008 from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/re/cfrar.htm>

The Center for Family Policy & Research is housed in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. The Center's mission is to create and disseminate research-based analyses to promote the well-being of families through informed public policy and program development.

1400 Rock Quarry Rd • University of Missouri • Columbia, MO 65211 • phone: (573) 882-9998 • fax: (573) 884-0598

Visit us on the web at <http://CFPR.missouri.edu>