

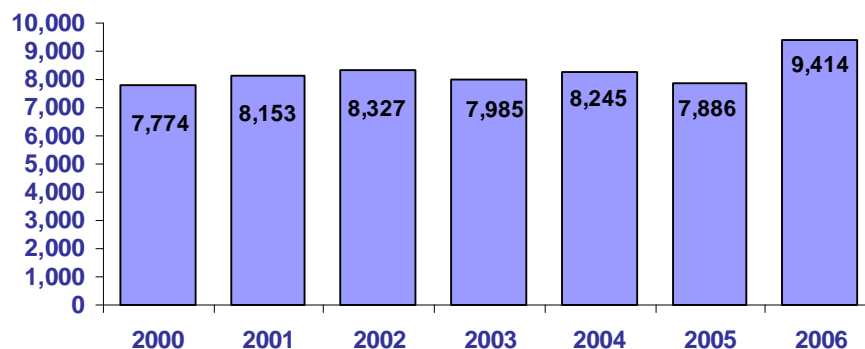
2007 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Child Welfare Indicators

Child Abuse and Neglect

- In 2006 in Rhode Island, there were 2,862 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 3,959 children.
- 78% of all instances of abuse and neglect were a result of neglect; 11% for physical abuse; 5% for sexual abuse; 2% for Medical neglect; 4% other.
- Between 2003 and 2005 the number of unduplicated child maltreatment reports was consistently around 13,500 reports. In 2006, the number of reports increased to nearly 15,000.
- The number of reports that had a completed investigation increased in the last year from 55% in 2005 to 59% in 2006. DCYF reports that this year they have more investigators on staff.
- The number of indicated investigations increased from 2,260 in 2005 to 2,862 in 2006. However, indicated investigations as a percent of completed investigations remained relatively constant at 32%.
- Of the 1,644 Rhode Island children who were victims of abuse or neglect during federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 (whether or not they were removed from the home), 13% experienced one or more recurrences of abuse or neglect within 6 months, up from 8% in FFY 2004. The national standard is 6% or fewer. This continues to be an issue that needs to be addressed in the Program Improvement Plan.

DCYF Caseload

Total DCYF Caseload, 2000-2007



- Between 2000 and 2005, in Rhode Island, the total Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) caseload remained relatively constant at around 8,000 children. In 2006, the number of children on the DCYF caseload increased to 9,414, a 19% increase from 2005.

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Out-of-home Placement

- In 2006 in Rhode Island, 3,311 children and youth in the care and custody of DCYF were in out-of-home placement, an increase of 16% from the last year when there were 2,865 children and youth in out-of-home placement.
- Half of all out-of-home placements were in foster care homes, both relative and generic. Of the 1,649 children in foster care homes, 47% (768) were living in a relative foster care home that was licensed or pending a license.

Older Youth in State Care

- In 2006 in Rhode Island, one in ten victims of child abuse and neglect were youth ages 16 and older (401 of the total 3,959 victims of abuse and neglect in 2006).
- The majority (90%) of reasons for youth ages 16 and older having indicated allegations were for neglect and physical abuse.
- In 2006 in Rhode Island, there were 100 youth who “aged out” of DCYF care never having gained a permanent placement. Of these, 76 were older than age 12 at entry into care.
- Seven percent of all exits from the foster care system in Rhode Island in FY 2006 were a result of aging out.

Night-to-Night Placements

- Night-to-night is defined as the temporary nightly placement of children in the care of DCYF who are awaiting longer-term placements.
- In 2005, there were 234 children placed in night-to-night for a total of 276 bed nights. This is almost five times as many children placed night-to-night in 2006 as in 2005 (50). Night-to-night reached a low of 13 in 2004 as the result of prolonged litigation between DCYF and the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA).
- Things to know about the data: this is a duplicate count of children. For example, you could have a child placed n-t-n on a Sunday night who stays on n-t-n status through Monday night. DCYF's weekly count runs from Monday night through Sunday night so that child will show up in the system as a child on n-t-n for one night in Week 1 and as a child on n-t-n for one night in Week 2.
- The practice of moving a child in n-t-n to different placements within a network and not reporting this as n-t-n is under investigation by the OCA.
- The number reported in 2005 (50) is also suspected of being an undercount as only children who were placed n-t-n for two or more nights were counted. The OCA is still confident that despite these discrepancies there has been an unacceptable rise in n-t-n placements.

Adoption and Permanency

- In 2006, there were 260 children in the care of DCYF who were adopted in Rhode Island and 216 children in the care of DCYF who were awaiting adoption.
- Of the 1,385 exits from the foster care system in FFY 2006, 18% (249) of children exited to adoption.
- Children who entered care after age 12 at entry or who had disabilities were less likely to exit to adoption or guardianship.