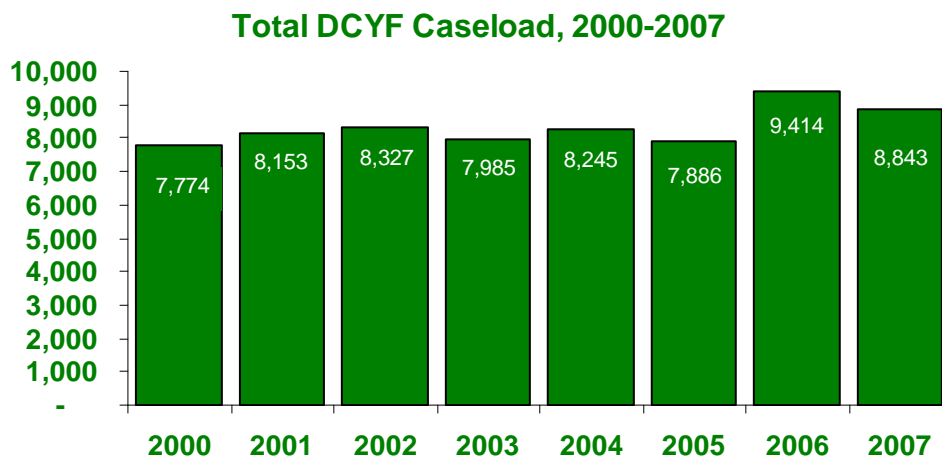


2008 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Child Welfare Indicators

Child Abuse and Neglect

- On December 31, 2007 in Rhode Island, 3,042 children under age 21 in the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) were in out-of-home placement, a decrease of 8% from last year when there were 3,311 children and youth in out-of-home placements.
- Of the 3,271 children who were victims of child abuse and neglect, 42% were under the age of 6.
- On December 31, 2007, there were more than 1,000 infants and toddlers (birth through age 3) in the care of DCYF, comprising 31% of the caseload. Children under age one comprise the fastest growing segment of the child welfare population. Children under age 3 are also the most likely to experience recurrence of abuse and neglect.
- 79% of all instances of abuse and neglect were a result of neglect; 9% for physical abuse; 6% for sexual abuse; 1% for medical neglect; <1% Emotional Abuse; and 4% other.
- Of the 1,758 Rhode Island children who were victims of abuse or neglect during federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 (whether or not they were removed from the home), 13% experienced one or more recurrences of abuse or neglect within 6 months, up from 11% in FFY 2003. The national standard is 6% or fewer.

DCYF Caseload



- 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. In 2007, the total caseload for DCYF decreased 6% to 8,843 children.

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 2007 (excluding September and October), there were 163 children placed in night-to-night for a total of 179 bed nights. 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).

2008 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Child Welfare Indicators

Out-of-home Placement

- In 2007 in Rhode Island, 3,042 children and youth in the care and custody of DCYF were in out-of-home placement, an 8% decrease from 2006 (3,311).
- Of the children in out-of-home placements, 52% (1,585) were in a foster care home, 13% (392) were in a residential facility, 11% (348) were in a group home, 4% (132) were in independent living or supervised apartments, 5% (156) were at the Rhode Island Training School for Youth, 3% (106) were in temporary shelter care, 3% (82) were in a psychiatric hospital, medical hospital or substance abuse facility and 4% (117) were in other placements.

Older Youth in State Care

- In FFY 2007 in Rhode Island, there were 145 youth who “aged out” of DCYF care never having gained a permanent placement. Of these, 111 (77%) were older than age 12 at entry into care.
- As of July 1, 2007, youth in Rhode Island age out of the foster care system at 18 years old, a change from age 21 in previous years.
- As of July 1, 2007 there were 312 motions to terminate Family Court involvement were filed involving young adults ages 18 and older. Of these, 266 motions were granted, with 97 becoming effective upon the youth’s enrollment in after care services.

Adoption and Permanency

- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months increased from 68% in FFY 2003 to 73% in FFY2007 (the national standard is 76%).
- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were adopted in 24 months or less decreased from 51% in FFY 2003 to 31% in FFY 2007. While this is about the national standard (32%) it is a significant increase in the number of children who wait more than 2 years before they are adopted.
- The longer children are in care, the more likely it is that they have multiple placements which compromises healthy child development and can result in long-term social, emotional and educational risks. Almost two-thirds (64%) of children who had been in DCYF care more than 24 months experienced 3 or more placements.
- In Rhode Island in FFY 2007, 18.2% of children who entered out-of-home placement were re-entering care within 12 months of a prior episode, down from 20.3% in FFY 2003. Despite this decrease, Rhode Island children re-enter care at more than twice the rate of the national standard (8.6%). Achieving timely and successful permanency for children and youth requires providing access to substance abuse and mental health treatment, in-home services, parenting skills training and assistance with meeting basic needs (e.g., food, child care, housing, income, and health insurance).