

Why First Star?

How does the United States fare in its treatment of children?

Global ranking of the U.S. based on gross domestic product: **#1**ⁱ

Ranking of the U.S. among developed nations based on overall child well-being: **20th out of 21**ⁱⁱ

Ranking of the U.S. among developed nations based on rate of child deaths from abuse and neglect: **25th out of 27**ⁱⁱⁱ

How many children are abused and neglected in the U.S.?

6,000,000 children were referred to Child Protective Services (CPS)^{iv}

3,600,000 children were investigated for maltreatment by CPS^v

905,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect^{vi}

What type of maltreatment did these children suffer?

64% were victims of neglect^{vii}

16% were victims of physical abuse^{viii}

9% were victims of sexual abuse^{ix}

Which children are at greatest risk for abuse or neglect?

Children under the age of one were **50%** more likely to be victims of abuse and neglect^x

Children with a reported disability were **52%** more likely to experience repeated incidents of abuse or neglect^{xi}

How many children in the U.S. died from abuse and neglect?

In 2006, there were an estimated **1,530** child fatality victims due to maltreatment in the U.S., or an average of 29 children a week^{xii}

78% of children killed were **0-3** years old.^{xiii}

Of these, **44%** were less than **1** year old^{xiv}

How much does child abuse and neglect cost the U.S.?

Annual estimated direct cost of medical care for child abuse and neglect in the U.S.: **\$33,101,302,133**^{xv}

Annual estimated direct AND indirect cost of child abuse and neglect in the U.S.: **\$103,754,017,492**^{xvi}

What kind of legal assistance is provided for these children?

16 states do not mandate legal representation for children in abuse and neglect proceedings^{xvii}

Abused and neglected children in **34** states do not receive the same traditional legal representation received by adults^{xviii}

What happens to former foster children?

Number of children in the foster care system: **799,000**^{xix}

Number of children that aged out of foster care in a year: **26,517**^{xx}

Percentage of the general population that have a bachelor's degree: **23%**^{xxi}

Percentage of former foster children that have a bachelor's degree: **< 2%**^{xxii}

Percentage of the general population in jail or prison in 2008: **1%**^{xxiii}

Percentage of former foster children incarcerated after aging out: Males: **44.6%**, Females: **16.4%**^{xxiv}

Percentage of the general population who experience homelessness over the course of a year: **< 1%**^{xxv}

Percentage of former foster children who experience homelessness after aging out of the system: **25%**^{xxvi}

Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among the general population: **4%**^{xxvii}

Prevalence of PTSD among Vietnam veterans: **15%**^{xxviii}

Prevalence of PTSD among former foster children: **25%**^{xxix}

Percentage of former foster children who reported being unemployed 1 year after aging out: **53%**^{xxx}

Percentage of former foster children who reported living on food stamps after aging out: **45%**^{xxxi}

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- i WORLD BANK, WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS DATABASE, TOTAL GDP 2007, at 1 (2008),
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/GDP.pdf> (last visited September 11, 2008).
- ii INNOCENTI RESEARCH CENTRE, UNICEF, CHILD POVERTY IN PERSPECTIVE: AN OVERVIEW OF CHILD WELL-BEING IN RICH COUNTRIES 2 (2007)
(using six categories of child well-being: material well-being, health and safety, educational well-being, family and peer relationships,
behaviours and risks, subjective well-being).
- iii INNOCENTI RESEARCH CENTRE, UNICEF, A LEAGUE TABLE OF CHILD MALTREATMENT DEATHS IN RICH NATIONS 4 (2003).
- iv ADMIN. ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (ACYF), U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES., CHILD MALTREATMENT 2006, at xiv
(2008).
- v *Id.*
- vi *Id.*
- vii *Id.* at xv.
- viii *Id.*
- ix *Id.*
- x *Id.* at 26-28.
- xi *Id.* at 30.
- xii *Id.* at 65.
- xiii *Id.*
- xiv *Id.* at 66.
- xv CHING-TUNG WANG, PH.D. & JOHN HOLTON, PH.D., PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA, TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF CHILD ABUSE AND
NEGLECT IN THE UNITED STATES 4 (2007).
- xvi *Id.* at 5.
- xvii FIRST STAR, REPORT ON A CHILD'S RIGHT TO COUNSEL 12-13 (2007).
- xviii *Id.* (including D.C.)
- xix ADMIN. ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (ACYF), U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, TRENDS IN FOSTER CARE AND
ADOPTION—FY 2002-FY 2006, at 1 (2008).
- xx ADMIN. ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (ACYF), U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ANALYSIS
AND REPORTING SYSTEM REPORT #14, at 4 (2008).
- xxi CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS, THE NORTHWEST FOSTER CARE ALUMNI STUDY, IMPROVING FAMILY FOSTER CARE: FINDINGS FROM THE
NORTHWEST FOSTER CARE ALUMNI STUDY 2 (2005).
- xxii *Id.*
- xxiii THE PEW CENTER ON THE STATES, ONE IN 100: BEHIND BARS IN AMERICA 2008 3 (2008).
- xxiv MARK E. COURTNEY ET AL., CHAPIN HALL, MIDWEST EVALUATION OF THE ADULT FUNCTIONING OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH: OUTCOMES AT
AGE 21, at 66 (2007) (asking former foster children at age 21 whether they have spent time in jail since their last interview 2 to 3 years ago).
Calculated by dividing the estimated homeless population of the U.S. over the course of a year (1.3 – 2.3 million) by the estimated total
population in the U.S. (304,364,314). *See* NAN P. ROMAN & PHYLLIS WOLFE, NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS, WEB OF FAILURE:
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER CARE AND HOMELESSNESS 4 (1995); THE URBAN INSTITUTE, MILLIONS STILL FACE HOMELESSNESS IN A
BOOMING ECONOMY, <http://www.urban.org/publications/900050.html> (2000) (last visited July 2, 2008); U.S. POPClock Projection,
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/popclockus.html> (last visited June 17, 2008).
- xxvi RONNA COOK ET AL., WESTAT INC., A NATIONAL EVALUATION OF TITLE IV-E FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, at
4-11 (1991).
- xxvii CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS, *supra* note xxi, at 32.
- xxviii *Id.* (citing R. A. KULKA ET AL., TRAUMA AND THE VIETNAM WAR GENERATION (Brunner/Mazel) (1990), on current prevalence.)
- xxix *Id.* (incidence in the 12 months prior to the interviews.)
- xxx MARK E. COURTNEY ET AL., CHAPIN HALL, MIDWEST EVALUATION OF THE ADULT FUNCTIONING OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH: OUTCOMES AT
AGE 19, at 23 (2005).
- xxxi MARK E. COURTNEY ET AL., *supra* note xxiv, at 39 (asking former foster children at age 21 whether they have received food stamps since their
last interview 2 to 3 years ago).