

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For more information contact:**

Patti Hassler, Vice President of Communications and Outreach  
202-662-3554 (office)

[phassler@childrensdefense.org](mailto:phassler@childrensdefense.org)



## **Child Poverty in the States Still Record High Levels**

### **Poorest are Children of Color and Under 6**

In 20 States more than 40 percent of Black Children are Poor

In 35 States more than 30 percent of Hispanic Children are Poor

In 21 States more than 25 percent of Children Under 6 are Poor

In 19 States more than 10 percent of Children are Extremely Poor

### **In 42 States Child Poverty Rates Significantly Higher than Pre-Recession**

[Click here](#) for New Children's Defense Fund Complete Analysis for National Poverty.

**Washington, D.C.** – The Children's Defense Fund analysis of new 2013 state data released by the U.S. Census Bureau reveals child poverty rates remain at record high levels. Children are the poorest age group, and the poorest are children of color and those under 6. Two states, New Jersey and West Virginia, experienced increases in child poverty, while eight states experienced significant decreases from 2012. In 42 states child poverty remains at record high levels, significantly higher than in 2007 before the recession began.

“Child poverty is a moral blight on America,” said Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund. “That children are the poorest, most vulnerable age group is disgraceful and we must protect them with a national floor of decency. Children of color and those under six during the years of rapid brain development are the poorest. Five years into the recovery poor children in the majority of states still have not benefited. We need to make sure political leaders asking for our votes this campaign season make voiceless, voteless children a priority. If we want to build a strong workforce, military and economy, we can and must end child poverty now.”

Poverty is defined as an annual income below \$23,834 for an average family of four, or less than \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week, or \$65 a day. Extreme poverty is defined as less than half of the annual poverty level, or less than \$11,917 for a family of four.

**Ten Best States for Child Poverty**

<b>State</b>	<b>2013 Number of Poor Children</b>	<b>2013 Child Poverty Rate</b>
New Hampshire	27,122	10.2
North Dakota	19,070	12.0
Alaska	22,377	12.1
Wyoming	18,187	13.2
Hawaii	40,288	13.3
Maryland	180,351	13.6
Minnesota	176,719	14.0
Connecticut	112,723	14.5
Utah	130,345	14.8
Vermont	18,697	15.3

**Ten Worst States for Child Poverty**

<b>State</b>	<b>2013 Number of Poor Children</b>	<b>2013 Child Poverty Rate</b>
Mississippi	246,298	34.0
New Mexico	156,610	31.2
Arkansas	202,456	29.0
Louisiana	304,244	27.7
South Carolina	291,832	27.5
Alabama	297,591	27.2
West Virginia	100,008	27.0
Tennessee	389,536	26.5
Georgia	650,910	26.5
Arizona	421,100	26.5

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The [Children's Defense Fund](#) Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.