

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Alaska



January 2011

183,546 children live in Alaska:

- 9,985 are Black
- 10,620 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 15,398 are two or more races
- 16,884 are Hispanic
- 34,021 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 101,659 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Alaska:

- A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 5 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 26 days.

### Alaska Ranks:\*

1<sup>st</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

9<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

21<sup>st</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

[\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### Child Poverty in Alaska

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	23,119 (12.8%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	9,629 (5.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,479
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$923

### Child Health in Alaska

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	24,000 (12.2%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	11,655**
CHIP eligibility: 175 percent of federal poverty (\$48,248 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	67,002**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	73.8%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	59.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	37.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	36.2%

\*States may have a different name for CHIP

\*\*The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

### **Child Hunger in Alaska**

Number of children who receive food stamps	26,523
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	70%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	34,326
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	1,780
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	25,251

### **Early Childhood Development in Alaska**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	57.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	3,520
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	3,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,000
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	12.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	18.9%

### **Education in Alaska**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$64,129
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$11,476
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	73%
unable to do math at grade level	62%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	73%
unable to do math at grade level	67%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	2,551

### **Child Welfare in Alaska**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,959
Number of children in foster care	2,166
Number of children adopted from foster care	329
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	6,367

### **Youth at Risk in Alaska**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	5.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	69.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	3,780
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	321
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	5.6
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 14 5 homicides; 8 suicides; accidents; and 1 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)

**For more information on the state of America's children contact:**

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