

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Missouri



January 2011

1,431,338 children live in Missouri:
 8,075 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 26,123 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 41,859 are two or more races
 79,096 are Hispanic
 203,097 are Black
 1,082,699 are White, non-Hispanic

In Missouri:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Missouri Ranks:*

21st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

34th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

34th among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Missouri

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	290,959 (20.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	144,043 (10.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	94,690
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$292

Child Health in Missouri

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	138,000 (9.1%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	103,709**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	523,652**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.1%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.3%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	39.5%

*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 Missouri

Number of children who receive food stamps	459,828
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	100%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	329,555
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	32,761
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	143,007

Early Childhood Development in Missouri

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	21,443
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	36,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,532
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	19.8%

Education in Missouri

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$16,885
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,273
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	64%
unable to do math at grade level	59%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	66%
unable to do math at grade level	65%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	24,139

Child Welfare in Missouri

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,451
Number of children in foster care	9,912
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,096
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	48,925

Youth at Risk in Missouri

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	43,005
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,227
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 85 55 homicides; 20 suicides; 5 accidents; and 5 undetermined	

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

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

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