

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Nebraska



November 2008

446,145 children live in Nebraska:

- 5,450 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 8,159 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 10,756 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 25,122 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 53,767 are Hispanic
- 342,891 are White, non-Hispanic

In Nebraska:

- A child is born into poverty every 2 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 weeks.

Nebraska Ranks:*

- 9th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 14th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 23rd 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 Nebraska

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	65,309 (14.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	30,498 (7.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	16,232
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$364

Child Health in Nebraska

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	41,000 (8.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	46,199
CHIP eligibility: 185 percent of federal poverty (\$40,793 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	128,862
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	57.9%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	17.1%

Child Hunger in Nebraska

Number of children who receive food stamps	59,053
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	237,410
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	5,349
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	42,087

Early Childhood Development in Nebraska

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	74.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	5,080
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	13,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,760
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.1%

Education in Nebraska

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,794
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	65%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	62%

Child Welfare in Nebraska

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	6,160
Number of children in foster care	6,187
Number of children adopted from foster care	534
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	8,969

Youth at Risk in Nebraska

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	87.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	11.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	14,967
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	735
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 3 homicides; 15 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	19

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

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

Children's Defense Fund

25 E Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 628-8787

1 (800) 233-1200

www.childrensdefense.org