

# Are Our Children Ready to Compete in the Global Arena?

## How America Ranks Among Industrialized Countries in Investing in and Protecting Children

- 1<sup>st</sup> in gross domestic product
- 1<sup>st</sup> in number of billionaires
- 1<sup>st</sup> in number of persons incarcerated
- 1<sup>st</sup> in health expenditures
- 1<sup>st</sup> in military technology
- 1<sup>st</sup> in defense expenditures
- 1<sup>st</sup> in military weapons exports
- 21<sup>st</sup> in 15-year-olds' science scores
- 22<sup>nd</sup> in low birthweight rates
- 25<sup>th</sup> in 15-year-olds' math scores
- 25<sup>th</sup> in infant mortality rates
- Last in relative child poverty
- Last in the gap between the rich and the poor
- Last in adolescent birth rates (ages 15 to 19)
- Last in protecting our children against gun violence

The United States and Somalia (which has no legally constituted government) are the only two United Nations members that have failed to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## America's Children Are Behind Academically

Percent of 12<sup>th</sup> grade public school students:

	<b>NOT reading at grade level</b>	<b>NOT doing math at grade level</b>
Total, all races	60%	75%
White, non-Hispanic	57	71
Black	84	94
Hispanic	80	92
American Indian	74	94
Asian	64	64

*If we compare just Black child well-being to children in other nations:*

- 62 nations have lower infant mortality rates, including Sri Lanka.
- Over 100 nations have lower low birthweight rates, including Algeria, Botswana and Panama.
- Black women in the United States are more likely to die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth than women in Uzbekistan.