

# THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN<sup>®</sup>



2010

Children's Defense Fund

# CDF Mission Statement

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.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

Cover photo © iStockphoto

Inside photos © Dean Alexander, Steve Liss, T.C. Perkins, Jr., Alison Wright, Cleo Freeland Photo, and iStockphoto

## 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  
21<sup>st</sup> in low birthweight rates  
25<sup>th</sup> in 15-year-olds' math scores  
28<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.

***If we compare just Black child well-being in America to child well-being in other nations, according to UNICEF:***

- 66 nations have lower infant mortality rates including Sri Lanka.
- Over 100 nations have a lower incidence of low birthweight, 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.

## Moments in America for All Children

Every second a public school student is suspended.\*  
Every 11 seconds a high school student drops out.\*  
Every 19 seconds a child is arrested.  
Every 19 seconds a baby is born to an unmarried mother.  
Every 20 seconds a public school student is corporally punished.\*  
Every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty.  
Every 41 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected.  
Every 42 seconds a baby is born without health insurance.  
Every minute a baby is born to a teen mother.  
Every minute a baby is born at low birthweight.  
Every 4 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense.  
Every 7 minutes a child is arrested for a violent crime.  
Every 18 minutes a baby dies before his or her first birthday.  
Every 45 minutes a child or teen dies from an accident.  
Every 3 hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm.  
Every 5 hours a child or teen commits suicide.  
Every 6 hours a child is killed by abuse or neglect.  
Every 15 hours a mother dies from complications of childbirth or pregnancy.

\* Based on calculations per school day (180 days of seven hours each)



Although minority children are disproportionately affected by poverty, violence, homelessness and other risks, more White children are victims of these risks than any other race.

## How Children in America are Faring, by Race/Ethnicity

	White, non-Hispanic 41,563,836 56.2% of child population	Hispanic 16,092,537 21.8%
<b>Public school student suspended*</b>	every 3 seconds	every 7 seconds
<b>High school student drops out*</b>	every 18 seconds	every 41 seconds
<b>Child is arrested</b>	every 29 seconds	n/a
<b>Public school student corporally punished*</b>	every 38 seconds	every 4 minutes
<b>Baby born to unmarried mother</b>	every 51 seconds	n/a
<b>Child confirmed abused or neglected</b>	every 2 minutes	every 3 minutes
<b>Baby born into poverty</b>	every 2 minutes	every minute
<b>Baby born without health insurance</b>	every 2 minutes	every 2 minutes
<b>Baby born to teen mother</b>	every 2 minutes	every 4 minutes
<b>Baby born at low birthweight</b>	every 3 minutes	every 7 minutes
<b>Child arrested for drug offense</b>	every 5 minutes	n/a
<b>Child arrested for a violent crime</b>	every 15 minutes	n/a
<b>Baby dies before first birthday</b>	every 29 minutes	n/a
<b>Child or teen dies from an accident</b>	every hour	every 4 hours
<b>Child or teen killed by firearm</b>	every 5 hours	every 13 hours
<b>Child or teen commits suicide</b>	every 6 hours	every 2 days
<b>Child killed by abuse or neglect</b>	every 17 hours	every 2 days
<b>Mother dies from complications of childbirth or pregnancy</b>	every day	every 3 days

\* Based on 180 school days a year

## How Children in America are Faring, by Race/Ethnicity

<b>Black</b> 11,222,543 15.2%	<b>Asian, Pacific Islander</b> 3,255,304 4.4%	<b>American Indian, Alaska Native</b> 3,255,304 1.3%
every 4 seconds	every minute	every 2 minutes
every 39 seconds	every 4 minutes	n/a
every minute	every 21 minutes	every 27 minutes
every 57 seconds	every 3 hours	every 14 minutes
every minute	every 13 minutes	every 17 minutes
every 3 minutes	every hour	every hour
every 2 minutes	every 18 minutes	every 31 minutes
every 4 minutes	n/a	n/a
every 5 minutes	every hour	every hour
every 6 minutes	n/a	n/a
every 14 minutes	every 7 hours	every 8 hours
every 14 minutes	every 11 hours	every 17 hours
every hour	n/a	n/a
every 4 hours	every day	every day
every 6 hours	every 5 days	every 8 days
every 2 days	every 6 days	every 5 days
every day	n/a	n/a
every 1.5 days	n/a	n/a

## Each day in America

2	mothers die in childbirth.
4	children are killed by abuse or neglect.
5	children or teens commit suicide.
9	children or teens are killed by firearms.
32	children or teens die from accidents.
78	babies die before their first birthdays.
202	children are arrested for violent crime.
377	children are arrested for drug offenses.
964	babies are born at low birthweight.
1,210	babies are born to teen mothers.
1,240	public school students are corporally punished.*
2,060	babies are born without health insurance.
2,175	children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
2,222	high school students drop out.*
2,692	babies are born into poverty.
4,435	children are arrested.
4,498	babies are born to unmarried mothers.
18,493	public school students are suspended.

\* Based on 180 school days a year

## Each day in America for White children

1	mother dies in childbirth.
1	child is killed by abuse or neglect.
4	children or teens commit suicide.
4	children or teens are killed by firearms.
25	children or teens die from accidents.
50	babies die before their first birthdays.
94	children are arrested for violent crimes.
266	children are arrested for drug offenses.
463	babies are born at low birthweight.
663	public school students are corporally punished.*
696	babies are born without health insurance.
794	babies are born into poverty.
855	babies are born to teen mothers.
921	children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
1,406	high school students drop out.*
1,684	babies are born to unmarried mothers.
2,934	children are arrested.
7,236	public school students are suspended.*

\* Based on 180 school days a year

### **Each day in America for Latino children**

2	children or teens are killed by firearms.
6	children or teens die from accidents.
103	public school students are corporally punished.*
199	babies are born at low birthweight.
406	babies are born to teen mothers.
416	children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
617	high school students drop out.*
936	babies are born without health insurance.
1,008	babies are born into poverty.
1,420	babies are born to unmarried mothers.
3,726	public school students are suspended.*

\* Based on 180 school days a year

### **Each day in America for Black children**

1	child is killed by abuse or neglect.
4	children or teens are killed by firearms.
5	children or teens die from accidents.
24	babies die before their first birthdays.
103	children are arrested for drug offenses.
104	children are arrested for violent crimes.
236	babies are born at low birthweight.
311	babies are born to teen mothers.
329	babies are born without health insurance.
434	children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
442	public school students are corporally punished.*
650	high school students drop out.*
761	babies are born into poverty.
1,282	babies are born to unmarried mothers.
1,363	children are arrested.
6,916	public school students are suspended.

\* Based on 180 school days a year

### **Each day in America for Asian and Pacific Islander children**

- 1 child is arrested for a violent crime.
- 2 public school students are corporally punished.\*
- 4 children are arrested for drug offenses.
- 22 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 22 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 67 children are arrested.
- 81 babies are born into poverty.
- 94 high school students drop out.\*
- 109 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 351 public school students are suspended.

\* Based on 180 school days a year

### **Each day in America for American Indian and Alaska Native children**

- 1 child is arrested for a violent crime.
- 3 children are arrested for drug offenses.
- 23 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 24 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 29 public school students are corporally punished.\*
- 47 babies are born into poverty.
- 52 children are arrested.
- 84 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 264 public school students are suspended.

\* Based on 180 school days a year