

January 27, 2014

The State of America's Children 2014 Best and Worst States



Percent Poor Children, 2012

10 Best

1. North Dakota
2. Maryland
3. Alaska
4. Minnesota
5. Connecticut
6. Utah
7. Virginia
8. Massachusetts*
8. New Jersey*
10. Vermont

10 Worst

50. Mississippi
49. New Mexico
48. Arkansas
47. Louisiana
46. Alabama
45. Georgia
44. Arizona
43. South Carolina
42. Kentucky
41. North Carolina

Percent Extremely Poor Children, 2012

10 Best

1. Alaska
2. New Hampshire
3. Minnesota*
3. North Dakota*
5. Iowa*
5. Utah*
7. Maryland*
7. Virginia*
9. Connecticut*
9. Kansas*

10 Worst

50. Mississippi
49. New Mexico
48. Alabama
47. West Virginia
46. Louisiana
44. Georgia*
44. South Carolina*
43. Arkansas
42. Arizona
41. Kentucky

Percent Poor Among Children Under Age 6, 2012

10 Best

1. North Dakota
2. Alaska
3. Maryland
4. Utah
5. Connecticut
6. Minnesota
7. Virginia
8. Massachusetts
9. Hawaii
10. New Jersey

10 Worst

50. Mississippi
49. New Mexico
48. Alabama
47. South Carolina
46. Arkansas
45. Georgia
44. Kentucky
43. Louisiana
42. Arizona
41. North Carolina

Percent Extremely Poor Among Children Under Age 6, 2012

10 Best

1. Alaska
2. Utah
3. Minnesota
4. Vermont
5. Maryland
6. Connecticut*
6. North Dakota*
8. Massachusetts*
8. Virginia*
10. Montana

10 Worst

50. Mississippi
49. Alabama
48. West Virginia
46. New Mexico*
46. South Carolina*
45. Louisiana
44. Georgia
43. Kentucky
42. Ohio
41. Arkansas

Median Income of Families with Children, 2012

10 Best

1. New Jersey
2. Connecticut
3. Massachusetts
4. Maryland
5. New Hampshire
6. Minnesota
7. Virginia

10 Worst

50. Mississippi
49. New Mexico
48. Arkansas
47. South Carolina
46. Nevada
45. Florida
44. Alabama

Summer Food Service Program Participation as a Percent of Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Participation, FY2012

10 Best

1. New York
2. Wisconsin
3. Delaware
4. Vermont
5. New Mexico
6. Maryland
7. Idaho

10 Worst

50. Oklahoma
49. California
48. Nevada
47. Arizona
46. Iowa
45. Connecticut
44. Colorado

- 8. Alaska
- 9. Hawaii
- 10. North Dakota

- 43. Oklahoma
- 42. Idaho
- 41. Tennessee

- 8. Oregon
- 9. Pennsylvania
- 10. Massachusetts

- 43. Tennessee
- 42. Alabama
- 41. North Dakota

Percent Children Living in Food Insecure Households, 2011

10 Best

- 1. North Dakota
- 2. New Hampshire
- 3. Massachusetts*
- 3. Virginia*
- 5. Minnesota
- 6. Wyoming
- 7. Delaware*
- 7. South Dakota*
- 9. Maryland*
- 9. New Jersey*

10 Worst

- 50. New Mexico
- 49. Arizona
- 48. Oregon
- 47. Georgia
- 45. Arkansas*
- 45. Florida*
- 44. Nevada
- 43. Texas
- 41. Mississippi*
- 41. South Carolina*

Percent Overweight and Obese (Ages 10-17), 2011-2012

10 Best

- 1. Utah
- 2. Colorado
- 3. Vermont
- 4. New Jersey
- 5. New Hampshire
- 6. Washington
- 7. Oregon*
- 7. Pennsylvania*
- 9. South Dakota
- 10. Wyoming

10 Worst

- 50. Louisiana
- 49. Mississippi
- 48. South Carolina
- 47. Arizona
- 46. Texas
- 45. North Dakota
- 44. Kentucky
- 42. Alabama*
- 42. Georgia*
- 41. Tennessee

Percent Uninsured (Ages 0-17), 2012

10 Best

- 1. Massachusetts
- 2. Vermont
- 3. Illinois
- 4. Delaware*
- 4. Hawaii*
- 6. Connecticut*
- 6. Maryland*
- 8. New York*
- 8. West Virginia*
- 10. Iowa*
- 10. Michigan*
- 10. New Hampshire*

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Alaska
- 48. Arizona
- 47. Texas
- 46. Montana
- 45. Florida
- 43.. Oklahoma*
- 43. Utah*
- 42. Wyoming
- 40. Colorado*
- 40. Georgia*

Gun Deaths

per 100,000 Children and Teens, 2010

10 Best

- 1. Connecticut
- 2. Oregon
- 3. Utah
- 4. Massachusetts
- 5. Minnesota
- 6. Iowa
- 7. Nebraska
- 8. New Jersey
- 9. New York
- 10. West Virginia

10 Worst¹

- 42. Alaska
- 41. Louisiana
- 40. Montana
- 39. Mississippi
- 38. Missouri
- 37. New Mexico
- 36. Alabama
- 35. Oklahoma
- 34. Delaware
- 33. Pennsylvania

¹ States were ranked 1 to 42 because 8 states could not be ranked due to data being suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Percent of 3- and 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in Preschool, 2009-2011

10 Best

- 1. New Jersey
- 2. Connecticut
- 3. Massachusetts
- 4. New York
- 5. Illinois
- 6. Hawaii*

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Arizona
- 47. Alaska*
- 47. North Dakota*
- 46. Idaho
- 45. West Virginia

On-Time High School Graduation Rates Among Public School Students, School Year 2009-2010

10 Best

- 1. Vermont
- 2. Wisconsin
- 3. North Dakota
- 4. Minnesota
- 5. Iowa
- 6. New Jersey

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Mississippi
- 48. New Mexico
- 47. South Carolina
- 46. Louisiana
- 45. Georgia

6. Louisiana*	44. New Mexico	7. New Hampshire	44. Florida
6. New Hampshire*	37. Indiana*	8. Kansas	43. Alabama
9. Maryland	37. Oregon*	9. Pennsylvania	42. Arizona
10. Mississippi	37. South Dakota*	10. Idaho	41. Arkansas
	37. Tennessee*		
	37. Utah*		
	37. Wisconsin*		
	37. Wyoming*		

Percent of Fourth Grade Public School Students Performing Below Grade Level, 2013

In Reading		In Math	
<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>	<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Massachusetts	50. Mississippi	1. Minnesota	50. Mississippi
2. Maryland	49. New Mexico	2. New Hampshire	49. Louisiana
3. New Hampshire	48. Louisiana	3. Massachusetts	48. Alabama
4. Virginia	47. California	4. Indiana	47. New Mexico
5. Connecticut	46. West Virginia	5. Vermont	46. California
6. Vermont	45. Nevada	6. Colorado	45. Nevada
7. New Jersey	44. Alaska	7. New Jersey	44. South Carolina
8. Minnesota	43. Arizona	8. Washington	43. West Virginia
9. Colorado	42. South Carolina	9. North Dakota	42. Oklahoma
10. Pennsylvania	41. Texas	10. Ohio	41. Alaska

Percent of Eighth Grade Public School Students Performing Below Grade Level, 2013

In Reading		In Math	
<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>	<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Massachusetts	50. Mississippi	1. Massachusetts	50. Alabama
2. New Jersey	49. New Mexico	2. New Jersey	49. Louisiana
3. Connecticut	48. Louisiana	3. Minnesota	48. Mississippi
4. Vermont	47. Alabama	4. Vermont	47. New Mexico
5. New Hampshire	46. West Virginia	5. New Hampshire	46. West Virginia
6. Maryland	45. Arizona	6. Colorado	45. Oklahoma
7. Pennsylvania	44. Hawaii	7. Washington	44. Tennessee
8. Washington	43. Oklahoma	8. Pennsylvania	43. California
9. Minnesota	42. California	9. North Dakota	42. Arkansas
10. Montana	41. South Carolina	10. Kansas	41. Nevada

*Indicates ties.

For sources and additional data please refer to *The 2014 State of America's Children* report available at www.childrendefense.org/SOAC.