

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Alabama



January 2011

1,128,864 children live in Alabama:
 5,510 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 13,403 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 23,696 are two or more races
 64,429 are Hispanic
 342,322 are Black
 686,160 are White, non-Hispanic

In Alabama:

A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 5 days.

Alabama Ranks:*

41st among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 48th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 49th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 [*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Alabama

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	274,906 (24.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	125,187 (11.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	47,811
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$215

Child Health in Alabama

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	81,000 (6.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	110,158**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	465,504**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.1%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	51.2%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	33.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.7%

*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 Alabama

Number of children who receive food stamps	291,898
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	358,182
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	26,156
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	134,842

Early Childhood Development in Alabama

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	18,984
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	26,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,992
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	10.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	23.1%

Education in Alabama

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$12,545
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,683
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	76%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	76%
unable to do math at grade level	80%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	19,382

Child Welfare in Alabama

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	8,295
Number of children in foster care	6,894
Number of children adopted from foster care	629
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	63,529

Youth at Risk in Alabama

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	69%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	27.9%
Number of juvenile arrests	11,035
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,650
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.6
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 69 52 homicides; 11 suicides; 4 accidents; and 2 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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