

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Arkansas



January 2011

709,968 children live in Arkansas:
 7,855 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 10,427 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 20,476 are two or more races
 70,989 are Hispanic
 137,298 are Black
 469,489 are White, non-Hispanic

In Arkansas:

A child is abused or neglected every 50 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 10 days.

Arkansas Ranks:*

37th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 41st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 37th 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 Arkansas

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	189,198 (27.2%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	83,330 (12.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	19,755
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$204

Child Health in Arkansas

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	71,000 (9.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	101,312**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	373,563**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	88.4%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	36.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	36.9%

*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 Arkansas

Number of children who receive food stamps	177,424
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	77%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	231,902
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	15,679
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	89,731

Early Childhood Development in Arkansas

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	11,640
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,536
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	62.7%

Education in Arkansas

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$23,929
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,030
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	71%
unable to do math at grade level	64%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	73%
unable to do math at grade level	73%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	11,145

Child Welfare in Arkansas

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	10,556
Number of children in foster care	3,657
Number of children adopted from foster care	601
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	38,847

Youth at Risk in Arkansas

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	29.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	11,745
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	810
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 35 23 homicides; 8 suicides; 4 accidents; and 0 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:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**