

Children's Defense Fund

Children in California



January 2011

9,435,682 children live in California:

- 118,870 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 424,947 are two or more races
- 647,685 are Black
- 1,057,691 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4,736,730 are Hispanic
- 2,775,647 are White, non-Hispanic

In California:

- A child is abused or neglected every 7 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 20 hours.

California Ranks:*

6th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

6th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

33rd among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in California

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	1,846,741 (19.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	729,817 (7.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1,355,050
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$723

Child Health in California

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,119,000 (11.2%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	1,748,135**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	4,164,977**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.5%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	39.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	23.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	25.1%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day. As of September 30, 2009 there were 871,355 children ages 0-18 enrolled in Healthy Families. As of July 2008 there were 3,354,350 children ages 0-18 receiving Medi-Cal.

Child Hunger in California

Number of children who receive food stamps	1,390,566
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	48%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	2,322,770
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	107,494
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1,412,210

Early Childhood Development in California

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	60.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	123,309
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	106,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,234
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	25.9%

Education in California

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$31,358
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,301
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	76%
unable to do math at grade level	70%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	78%
unable to do math at grade level	77%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	112,937

Child Welfare in California

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	79,799
Number of children in foster care	60,198
Number of children adopted from foster care	7,438
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	281,067

Youth at Risk in California

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	5.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	71.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	32.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	203,345
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	14,034
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.8
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 431 376 homicides; 43 suicides; 8 accidents; and 4 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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