

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Colorado



January 2011

1,227,763 children live in Colorado:  
 18,149 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 38,037 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 47,199 are two or more races  
 66,997 are Black  
 366,807 are Hispanic  
 722,595 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Colorado:

A child is abused or neglected every 44 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 11 days.

### Colorado Ranks:\*

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

### Child Poverty in Colorado

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	210,498 (17.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	94,866 (7.8%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	25,899
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$356

### Child Health in Colorado

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	155,000 (12.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	102,395**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	333,027**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	68.9%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	59.6%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.8%

\*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 Colorado**

Number of children who receive food stamps	129,819
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	55%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	201,651
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	10,320
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	98,802

### **Early Childhood Development in Colorado**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	62.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	13,083
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	17,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,067
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	32.1%

### **Education in Colorado**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$21,395
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,166
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	60%
unable to do math at grade level	55%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	68%
unable to do math at grade level	60%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	20,124

### **Child Welfare in Colorado**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,881
Number of children in foster care	7,927
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,070
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	35,392

### **Youth at Risk in Colorado**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	75.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	24.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	37,890
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,752
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.6
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 33 13 homicides; 16 suicides; 1 accidents; and 3 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://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](http://www.childrensdefense.org)**