

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Georgia



January 2011

2,583,792 children live in Georgia:  
 11,065 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 66,366 are two or more races  
 79,834 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 324,493 are Hispanic  
 845,665 are Black  
 1,288,152 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Georgia:

A child is abused or neglected every 22 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 7 hours.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 days.

### Georgia Ranks:\*

29<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah  
 42<sup>nd</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia  
 44<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 Georgia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	568,324 (22.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	251,138 (9.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	38,486
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$280

### Child Health in Georgia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	316,000 (11.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	254,365**
CHIP eligibility: 235 percent of federal poverty (\$51,818 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,011,900**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	80.6%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	60.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	33.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	30.7%

\*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 Georgia**

Number of children who receive food stamps	516,910
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	63%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	783,229
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	112,426
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	305,516

### **Early Childhood Development in Georgia**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	28,088
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	54,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$ 5,973
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	9.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	61.1%

### **Education in Georgia**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$20,543
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,595
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	71%
unable to do math at grade level	66%
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	44,884

### **Child Welfare in Georgia**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	23,921
Number of children in foster care	8,020
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,389
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	102,126

### **Youth at Risk in Georgia**

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	65.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	29.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	42,572
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,736
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.4
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 114 87 homicides; 16 suicides; 8 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)**