

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Illinois



January 2011

3,177,377 children live in Illinois:
 12,618 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 81,244 are two or more races
 139,586 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 556,475 are Black
 705,192 are Hispanic
 1,725,779 are White, non-Hispanic

In Illinois:

A child is abused or neglected every 18 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 7 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 days.

Illinois Ranks:*

23rd among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 24th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 32nd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

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

Child Poverty in Illinois

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	591,398 (18.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	267,286 (8.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	55,394
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$396

Child Health in Illinois

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	259,000 (7.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	376,618**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,322,088**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	87.7%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	27.4%

*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 Illinois

Number of children who receive food stamps	605,282
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	83%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	717,491
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	52,937
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	294,685

Early Childhood Development in Illinois

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	48,675
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	68,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,117
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	29.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	42.8%

Education in Illinois

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$20,738
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,113
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	68%
unable to do math at grade level	62%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	67%
unable to do math at grade level	67%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	44,137

Child Welfare in Illinois

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	29,836
Number of children in foster care	17,080
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,429
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	99,783

Youth at Risk in Illinois

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	5.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	80.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	25.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	29,961
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,565
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.3
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 150 128 homicides; 17 suicides; 4 accidents; and 1 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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