

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Kentucky



January 2011

1,014,323 children live in Kentucky:  
 2,911 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 13,008 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 25,088 are two or more races  
 45,929 are Hispanic  
 98,717 are Black  
 834,795 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Kentucky:

A child is abused or neglected every 30 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 9 days.

### Kentucky Ranks:\*

23<sup>rd</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

39<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

42<sup>nd</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

[\*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 Kentucky

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	255,416 (25.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	122,274 (12.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	60,477
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$262

### Child Health in Kentucky

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	101,000 (9.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	73,143**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	417,784**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	89.6%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.4%

\*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 Kentucky**

Number of children who receive food stamps	257,537
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	83%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	317,666
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	35,807
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	136,266

### **Early Childhood Development in Kentucky**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	19,351
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	30,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,720
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	44.4%

### **Education in Kentucky**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$19,472
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,668
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	64%
unable to do math at grade level	63%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	67%
unable to do math at grade level	73%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	16,986

### **Child Welfare in Kentucky**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	17,470
Number of children in foster care	6,872
Number of children adopted from foster care	842
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	49,001

### **Youth at Risk in Kentucky**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	74.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	24.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	7,946
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,116
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.5
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 42 21 homicides; 17 suicides; 3 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](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)**