

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Louisiana



January 2011

1,123,386 children live in Louisiana:
 7,804 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 17,694 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 24,189 are two or more races
 50,029 are Hispanic
 425,858 are Black
 605,720 are White, non-Hispanic

In Louisiana:

A child is abused or neglected every 54 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 days.

Louisiana Ranks:*

30th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 49th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 48th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

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

Child Poverty in Louisiana

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|---|-----------------|
| Number of poor children (and percent poor) | 268,036 (24.2%) |
| Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) | 116,581 (10.5%) |
| Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 24,170 |
| Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three | \$240 |

Child Health in Louisiana

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|--|-----------------|
| Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) | 131,000 (11.0%) |
| Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)* | 170,082** |
| CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four) | |
| Number of children enrolled in Medicaid | 580,686** |
| Medicaid and CHIP participation rate | 88.5% |
| Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment | 55.0% |
| Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures | 25.0% |
| Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized | 23.1% |

*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 Louisiana

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| Number of children who receive food stamps | 323,236 |
| Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps | 74% |
| Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only) | 385,570 |
| Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program | 30,033 |
| Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) | 141,704 |

Early Childhood Development in Louisiana

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| Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force | 66.4% |
| Number of children served by Head Start | 22,712 |
| Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG | 46,600 |
| Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center | \$4,610 |
| Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 18.0% |
| Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 48.2% |

Education in Louisiana

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| Annual expenditure per prisoner | \$10,252 |
| Annual expenditure per public school pupil | \$8,486 |
| Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level | 82% |
| unable to do math at grade level | 77% |
| Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level | 80% |
| unable to do math at grade level | 80% |
| Number of high school students who drop out of school annually | 20,456 |

Child Welfare in Louisiana

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| Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect | 9,660 |
| Number of children in foster care | 4,786 |
| Number of children adopted from foster care | 578 |
| Number of grandparents raising grandchildren | 62,668 |

Youth at Risk in Louisiana

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| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates | 7.8% |
| Averaged freshman high school graduation rate | 63.5% |
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed | 19.6% |
| Number of juvenile arrests | 18,674 |
| Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities | 1,350 |
| Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil | 1.2 |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 114 82 homicides; 21 suicides; 10 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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