

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Mississippi*



January 2011

767,742 children live in Mississippi:  
 4,974 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 7,404 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 13,996 are two or more races  
 27,028 are Hispanic  
 333,446 are Black  
 384,539 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Mississippi:**

A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 19 hours.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 1 week.

### **Mississippi Ranks:\***

46<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah  
 50<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia  
 51<sup>st</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 Mississippi**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	232,628(31.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	105,450(14.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	25,408
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$170

### **Child Health in Mississippi**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	104,000(12.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	86,839**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	389,969**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.1%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.9%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	29.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.7%

\*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 Mississippi**

Number of children who receive food stamps	217,663
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	60%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	302,006
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	20,027
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	109,015

### **Early Childhood Development in Mississippi**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	28,237
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	27,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,056
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	24.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	37.6%

### **Education in Mississippi**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$13,249
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,173
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	78%
unable to do math at grade level	78%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	81%
unable to do math at grade level	85%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	14,079

### **Child Welfare in Mississippi**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	7,883
Number of children in foster care	3,320
Number of children adopted from foster care	306
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	50,130

### **Youth at Risk in Mississippi**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	63.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	30.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	11,715
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	450
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.8
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 50 20 homicides; 16 suicides; 13 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:**

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