

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Montana



January 2011

219,828 children live in Montana:

- 2,163 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 3,449 are Black
- 7,641 are two or more races
- 11,494 are Hispanic
- 21,972 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 175,365 are White, non-Hispanic

In Montana:

- A child is abused or neglected every 5 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 5 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 46 days.

Montana Ranks:*

16th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

18th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

28th among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

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

Child Poverty in Montana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	46,398 (21.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	22,795 (10.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	9,174
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$375

Child Health in Montana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	28,000 (11.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	25,749**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	60,891**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	69.3%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	44.8%

*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 Montana

Number of children who receive food stamps	34,988
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	64%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	42,418
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	8,644
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	19,914

Early Childhood Development in Montana

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	5,379
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,467
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	22.5%

Education in Montana

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$29,625
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,626
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	65%
unable to do math at grade level	55%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	62%
unable to do math at grade level	56%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	5,096

Child Welfare in Montana

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,628
Number of children in foster care	1,639
Number of children adopted from foster care	192
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	6,692

Youth at Risk in Montana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	8.6%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	18.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	6,948
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	210
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.4
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 8 2 homicides; 6 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 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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