

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Jersey



January 2011

2,045,848 children live in New Jersey:
 8,390 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 57,556 are two or more races
 172,367 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 345,066 are Black
 442,088 are Hispanic
 1,088,513 are White, non-Hispanic

In New Jersey:

A child is abused or neglected every 57 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 1 week.

New Jersey Ranks:*

1st among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 5th 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 New Jersey

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	272,697 (13.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	120,840 (6.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	76,818
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$424

Child Health in New Jersey

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	244,000 (11.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	167,009**
CHIP eligibility: 350 percent of federal poverty (\$77,175 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	524,656**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.4%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	20.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	32.8%

*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 New Jersey

Number of children who receive food stamps	206,272
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	59%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	341,261
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	45,522
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	159,064

Early Childhood Development in New Jersey

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	14,488
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	35,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,489
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	26.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	37.4%

Education in New Jersey

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$34,915
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$14,954
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	60%
unable to do math at grade level	51%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	58%
unable to do math at grade level	56%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	15,805

Child Welfare in New Jersey

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,293
Number of children in foster care	7,809
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,347
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	51,671

Youth at Risk in New Jersey

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	3.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	84.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	21.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	48,407
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,677
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.3
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 53 50 homicides; 2 suicides; 1 accident; 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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