

Children's Defense Fund

Children in North Carolina



January 2011

2,277,967 children live in North Carolina:
 32,693 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 55,206 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 61,876 are two or more races
 296,159 are Hispanic
 548,973 are Black
 1,311,809 are White, non-Hispanic

In North Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 21 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

North Carolina Ranks:*

39th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

45th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

44th 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 North Carolina

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	504,937 (22.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	228,250 (10.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	55,567
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$272

Child Health in North Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	277,000 (11.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	252,650**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	893,038**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.7%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	31.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	44.2%

*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 North Carolina

Number of children who receive food stamps	459,199
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	63.0%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	591,152
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	49,213
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	260,433

Early Childhood Development in North Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	23,522
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	72,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,804
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	7.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	36.0%

Education in North Carolina

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$28,871
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$ 7,396
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	68%
unable to do math at grade level	57%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	71%
unable to do math at grade level	64%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	38,766

Child Welfare in North Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	24,506
Number of children in foster care	9,547
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,725
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	89,622

Youth at Risk in North Carolina

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.3%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	72.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	25.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	36,830
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,035
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.9
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 91 67 homicides; 17 suicides; 7 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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