

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Rhode Island



January 2011

226,825 children live in Rhode Island:
 2,436 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 8,064 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 8,210 are two or more races
 20,111 are Black
 45,268 are Hispanic
 150,003 are White, non-Hispanic

In Rhode Island:

A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 days.

Rhode Island Ranks:*

6th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 29th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 20th 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 Rhode Island

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	37,731 (16.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	17,904 (8.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	15,523
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$554

Child Health in Rhode Island

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	20,000 (8.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	19,596**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	91,718**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	83.5%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.2%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	49.4%

*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 Rhode Island

Number of children who receive food stamps	38,382
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	60%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	51,497
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	6,982
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	25,823

Early Childhood Development in Rhode Island

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	70.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	2,433
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	6,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	9.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	16.0%

Education in Rhode Island

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$72,356
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$12,609
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	64%
unable to do math at grade level	61%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	72%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	4,320

Child Welfare in Rhode Island

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,065
Number of children in foster care	2,112
Number of children adopted from foster care	272
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	4,682

Youth at Risk in Rhode Island

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	6.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	30.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	5,184
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	312
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	5.7
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 0 0 homicides; 0 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:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**