

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Tennessee



January 2011

1,493,252 children live in Tennessee:
 5,905 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 24,708 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 36,658 are two or more races
 309,559 are Black
 107,483 are Hispanic
 1,026,363 are White, non-Hispanic

In Tennessee:

A child is abused or neglected every 57 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 12 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 6 days.

Tennessee Ranks:*

44th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

44th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

47th 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 Tennessee

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	349,851 (23.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	164,244 (11.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	161,733
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$185

Child Health in Tennessee

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	140,000 (8.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	83,333**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	701,934**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	86.7%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	47.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	25.6%

*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 Tennessee

Number of children who receive food stamps	394,134
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	87%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	427,033
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	31,562
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	169,432

Early Childhood Development in Tennessee

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	19,718
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	45,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,732
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	9.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	34.7%

Education in Tennessee

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$14,827
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,004
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	72%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	75%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	17,932

Child Welfare in Tennessee

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,186
Number of children in foster care	6,723
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,001
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	69,950

Youth at Risk in Tennessee

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	5.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	74.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	28.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	34,792
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,263
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 61 40 homicides; 19 suicides; 2 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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