

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Texas



January 2011

6,895,969 children live in Texas:
 54,410 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 168,477 are two or more races
 242,013 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 863,664 are Black
 2,482,278 are White, non-Hispanic
 3,247,131 are Hispanic

In Texas:

A child is abused or neglected every 8 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 1 day.

Texas Ranks:*

14th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 29th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 43rd 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 Texas

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	1,661,402(24.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	719,676 (10.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	108,144
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$223

Child Health in Texas

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,392,000(19.2%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	869,867**
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	2,804,650**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	74.7%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	65.6%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	43.5%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.1%

*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 Texas

Number of children who receive food stamps	1,412,481
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	55%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	2,223,456
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	106,482
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	934,597

Early Childhood Development in Texas

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	59.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	87,158
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	121,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,084
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	55.3%

Education in Texas

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$16,660
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,480
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	72%
unable to do math at grade level	62%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	73%
unable to do math at grade level	64%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	105,456

Child Welfare in Texas

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	69,169
Number of children in foster care	26,686
Number of children adopted from foster care	4,976
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	289,530

Youth at Risk in Texas

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	73.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	170,190
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	7,035
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.2
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 250 160 homicides; 73 suicides; 15 accidents; and 2 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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