

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Utah



January 2011

868,824 children live in Utah:  
 14,277 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 27,191 are two or more races  
 24,008 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 16,904 are Black  
 141,968 are Hispanic  
 656,034 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Utah:

A child is abused or neglected every 38 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 24 days.

### Utah Ranks:\*

4<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

4<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

51<sup>st</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

[\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### Child Poverty in Utah

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Number of poor children (and percent poor)  | 105,000 (12.2%) |
| Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)                               | 42,583 (4.9%)   |
| Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 17,920          |
| Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three  | \$474           |

### Child Health in Utah

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)              | 101,000 (11.0%) |
| Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*   | 59,806**        |
| CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four) |                 |
| Number of children enrolled in Medicaid  | 165,664**       |
| Medicaid and CHIP participation rate   | 66.2            |
| Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment                               | 56.2%           |
| Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures    | 32.5%           |
| Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized                                     | 29.7%           |

\*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 Utah**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Number of children who receive food stamps   | 70,383  |
| Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps  | 52%     |
| Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)                                 | 137,926 |
| Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program  | 17,658  |
| Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) | 66,252  |

### **Early Childhood Development in Utah**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force                       | 49.6%   |
| Number of children served by Head Start   | 7,417   |
| Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG                        | 10,000  |
| Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center                         | \$5,580 |
| Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 7.0%    |
| Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 11.9%   |

### **Education in Utah**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Annual expenditure per prisoner                                | \$39,238 |
| Annual expenditure per public school pupil                     | \$ 5,464 |
| Percent of public school fourth graders:                       |          |
| unable to read at grade level                                  | 69%      |
| unable to do math at grade level                               | 59%      |
| Percent of public school eighth graders:                       |          |
| unable to read at grade level                                  | 67%      |
| unable to do math at grade level                               | 65%      |
| Number of high school students who drop out of school annually | 8,449    |

### **Child Welfare in Utah**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect | 13,706 |
| Number of children in foster care                       | 2,759  |
| Number of children adopted from foster care             | 502    |
| Number of grandparents raising grandchildren            | 18,146 |

### **Youth at Risk in Utah**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates                         | 4.8%   |
| Averaged freshman high school graduation rate   | 74.3%  |
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed   | 16.3%  |
| Number of juvenile arrests  | 26,491 |
| Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities   | 867    |
| Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil  | 7.2    |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 15<br>5 homicides; 9 suicides; 1 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](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits).

**For more information on the state of America's children contact:**

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