

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Washington



January 2011

1,569,592 children live in Washington:
 38,090 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 78,341 are Black
 96,624 are two or more races
 116,461 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 276,821 are Hispanic
 1,003,810 are White, non-Hispanic

In Washington:

A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 11 days.

Washington Ranks:*

1st among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 3rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 38th 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 Washington

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	250,830 (16.2%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	108,682 (7.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	153,888
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$546

Child Health in Washington

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	108,000 (6.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	27,415**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	660,730**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	83.4%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	56.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	27.5%
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 Washington

Number of children who receive food stamps	246,904
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	76%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	302,519
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	37,543
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	176,005

Early Childhood Development in Washington

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	60.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	19,464
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	46,400
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	11.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	19.8%

Education in Washington

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$34,452
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$7,984
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	67%
unable to do math at grade level	57%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	64%
unable to do math at grade level	61%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	22,519

Child Welfare in Washington

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	6,560
Number of children in foster care	9,922
Number of children adopted from foster care	2,091
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	40,305

Youth at Risk in Washington

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	6.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	71.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	30.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	26,080
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,527
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.3
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 32 16 homicides; 15 suicides; 1 accident; 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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