

Children's Defense Fund

Children in West Virginia



January 2011

386,449 children live in West Virginia:
 844 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 2,829 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 7,724 are Hispanic
 8,813 are two or more races
 19,283 are Black
 347,750 are White, non-Hispanic

In West Virginia:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 37 days.

West Virginia Ranks:*

46th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

31st among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

20th 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 West Virginia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	88,610 (23.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	41,889 (11.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	21,225
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$340

Child Health in West Virginia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	23,000 (5.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	38,200**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	196,993**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	89.4%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	35.5%

*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 West Virginia

Number of children who receive food stamps	108,705
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	85%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	117,974
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	14,183
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	51,770

Early Childhood Development in West Virginia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	57.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	8,767
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,560
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	19.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	73.3%

Education in West Virginia

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$35,725
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,440
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	74%
unable to do math at grade level	72%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	78%
unable to do math at grade level	81%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	8,539

Child Welfare in West Virginia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,473
Number of children in foster care	4,237
Number of children adopted from foster care	541
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	19,310

Youth at Risk in West Virginia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	8.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	22.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	2,244
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	570
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.8
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 10 3 homicides; 4 suicides; 2 accidents; and 1 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**