

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Wisconsin*



January 2011

1,310,250 children live in Wisconsin:  
 18,936 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 37,230 are two or more races  
 41,598 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 117,931 are Black  
 118,032 are Hispanic  
 989,835 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Wisconsin:**

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 19 hours.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 6 days.

### **Wisconsin Ranks:\***

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

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

15<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

23<sup>rd</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

[\*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 Wisconsin**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	214,404 (16.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	88,771 (6.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	43,391
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$673

### **Child Health in Wisconsin**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	77,000 (5.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	132,894**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	429,111**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	86.8%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	44.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	17.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	40.9%

\*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 Wisconsin**

Number of children who receive food stamps	207,662
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	64%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	247,117
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	36,498
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	121,754

### **Early Childhood Development in Wisconsin**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	72.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	18,739
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	31,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,424
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	12.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	59.4%

### **Education in Wisconsin**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$31,504
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,993
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	67%
unable to do math at grade level	55%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	66%
unable to do math at grade level	61%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	12,869

### **Child Welfare in Wisconsin**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,947
Number of children in foster care	6,785
Number of children adopted from foster care	769
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	26,802

### **Youth at Risk in Wisconsin**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	3.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	89.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	18.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	84,143
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,422
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.2
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 57 35 homicides; 14 suicides; 4 accidents; and 4 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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