

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Arkansas

January 2012



709,304 children live in Arkansas:
465,855 are White, non-Hispanic
135,685 are Black
72,344 are Hispanic
10,256 are Asian/Pacific Islander
4,662 are American Indian/Alaska Native
25,443 are two or more races

In Arkansas:

A child is abused or neglected every 45 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.

Arkansas Ranks:*

40th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
37th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
40th among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Arkansas

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	193,081 (27.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	82,847 (11.8%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	18,205
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$204

Child Health in Arkansas

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	51,210 (7.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	100,770
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	404,307
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.7%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	92.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	37.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.8%

Child Hunger in Arkansas

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	206,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	71%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	352,779
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	21,841
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	93,461

Early Childhood Development in Arkansas

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	13,298
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,650
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	24.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	60.0%

Education in Arkansas

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,854
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	69.9%
unable to do math at grade level	62.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	72.2%
unable to do math at grade level	70.7%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	13,638

Child Welfare in Arkansas

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,729
Number of children in foster care	3,770
Number of children adopted from foster care	595
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	39,792

Youth at Risk in Arkansas

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	74.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	28.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	9,091
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	836
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.24
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	17
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	13

**This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.**

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

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