

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in California

January 2012



9,307,653 children live in California:  
2,600,068 are White, non-Hispanic  
571,821 are Black  
4,715,912 are Hispanic  
1,032,398 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
74,932 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
665,643 are two or more races

### In California:

A child is abused or neglected every 7 minutes.  
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 hours.

### California Ranks:\*

11th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

5th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia

34th among states in per pupil expenditures.

The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[\*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 California

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	2,012,585 (22.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	847,366 (9.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1,494,658
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$694

### Child Health in California

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,003,431 (10.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1,731,605
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$57,625 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	4,457,183
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	38.8%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	83.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	23.8%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	31.4%

### Child Hunger in California

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	1,968,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	50%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	3,275,512
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	115,719
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1,466,470

### **Early Childhood Development in California**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	131,620
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	106,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,850
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	17.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	31.4%

### **Education in California**

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,503
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	75.4%
unable to do math at grade level	66.2%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	76.3%
unable to do math at grade level	74.7%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	113,749

### **Child Welfare in California**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	76,758
Number of children in foster care	57,708
Number of children adopted from foster care	6,044
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	295,405

### **Youth at Risk in California**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	71.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	34.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	177,206
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	13,309
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.21
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	334
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	54

**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](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits).**

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

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