

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Colorado

January 2012



1,216,485 children live in Colorado:
711,562 are White, non-Hispanic
54,075 are Black
364,758 are Hispanic
32,202 are Asian/Pacific Islander
11,417 are American Indian/Alaska Native
79,447 are two or more races

In Colorado:

A child is abused or neglected every 47 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.

Colorado Ranks:*

39th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

23rd among states in its infant mortality rate.

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

41st 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 Colorado

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	210,532 (17.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	91,476 (7.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	32,533
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$462

Child Health in Colorado

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	95,997 (7.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	106,643
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$57,625 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	452,636
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	59.2%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.3%

Child Hunger in Colorado

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	208,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	52%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	399,026
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	15,569
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	104,129

Early Childhood Development in Colorado

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	13,244
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	17,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,000
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	32.0%

Education in Colorado

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,782
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	61.5%
unable to do math at grade level	53.2%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	59.7%
unable to do math at grade level	56.5%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	15,041

Child Welfare in Colorado

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,166
Number of children in foster care	6,980
Number of children adopted from foster care	983
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	35,838

Youth at Risk in Colorado

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	25.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	32,054
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,688
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.71
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	13
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	23

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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