

Children's Defense Fund

Children in the District of Columbia

January 2012



101,962 children live in the District of Columbia:

- 17,056 are White, non-Hispanic
- 68,928 are Black
- 11,957 are Hispanic
- 1,880 are Asian
- 223 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 3,059 are two or more races

In the District of Columbia:

- A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 days.

the District of Columbia Ranks:*

48th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

51st among states in its infant mortality rate.

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

1st 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 the District of Columbia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	30,555 (30.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	16,257 (16.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	23,601
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$428

Child Health in the District of Columbia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	5,469 (5.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	8,100
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	89,402
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	44.8%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	97.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	16.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.7%

Child Hunger in the District of Columbia

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	45,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	86%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	46,651
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	36,690
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	16,537

Early Childhood Development in the District of Columbia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	3,981
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	1,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$14,050
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	n/a
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	n/a

Education in the District of Columbia

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$19,698
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	81.2%
unable to do math at grade level	78.4%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	83.9%
unable to do math at grade level	83.0%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	1,917

Child Welfare in the District of Columbia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	2,672
Number of children in foster care	2,066
Number of children adopted from foster care	129
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	5,209

Youth at Risk in the District of Columbia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	62.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	49.9%
Number of juvenile arrests	768
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	236
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	24

**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:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787 or (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**