

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Illinois

January 2012



3,138,727 children live in Illinois:

- 1,676,333 are White, non-Hispanic
- 530,453 are Black
- 710,128 are Hispanic
- 129,726 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 6,087 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 129,256 are two or more races

In Illinois:

- A child is abused or neglected every 20 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 7 hours.

Illinois Ranks:*

29th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

31st among states in its infant mortality rate.

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

16th 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 Illinois

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	600,045 (19.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	264,378 (8.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	82,844
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$432

Child Health in Illinois

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	236,214 (7.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	329,104
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	2,080,461
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.9%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	90.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	23.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	27.6%

Child Hunger in Illinois

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	758,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	80%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	1,161,753
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	53,443
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	295,409

Early Childhood Development in Illinois

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	51,888
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	68,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,700
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	28.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	44.5%

Education in Illinois

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$11,592
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.7%
unable to do math at grade level	61.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.1%
unable to do math at grade level	67.2%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	36,588

Child Welfare in Illinois

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	26,442
Number of children in foster care	17,730
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,214
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	100,821

Youth at Risk in Illinois

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.7%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	27.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	26,605
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,440
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	133
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	18

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

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

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