

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Louisiana

January 2012



1,114,759 children live in Louisiana:  
587,647 are White, non-Hispanic  
426,022 are Black  
53,056 are Hispanic  
16,736 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
8,241 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
29,802 are two or more races

### In Louisiana:

A child is abused or neglected every 63 minutes.  
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.

### Louisiana Ranks:\*

50th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi

48th among states in its infant mortality rate.

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

23rd 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 Louisiana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	299,779 (27.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	134,938 (12.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	23,494
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

### Child Health in Louisiana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	103,339 (9.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	157,012
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$57,625 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	662,861
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.1%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	89.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	31.0%

### Child Hunger in Louisiana

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	381,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	72%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	592,795
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	32,138
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	150,051

### **Early Childhood Development in Louisiana**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	24,234
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	46,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,400
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	47.8%

### **Education in Louisiana**

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,625
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	77.4%
unable to do math at grade level	74.1%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	77.8%
unable to do math at grade level	77.7%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	26,386

### **Child Welfare in Louisiana**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	8,344
Number of children in foster care	4,453
Number of children adopted from foster care	641
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	65,403

### **Youth at Risk in Louisiana**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	10.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	67.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	16,582
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,294
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.17
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	78
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	17

**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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