Children's Defense Fund

Children in Mississippi

January 2012

759,147 children live in Mississippi:
- 376,554 are White, non-Hispanic
- 334,514 are Black
- 25,324 are Hispanic
- 5,589 are Asian
- 3,915 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 16,443 are two or more races

In Mississippi:
A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.

Mississippi Ranks:*
51st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
50th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
46th 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 Mississippi	
Number of poor children (and percent poor)	241,595 (32.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	115,078 (15.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	24,303
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	$170

Child Health in Mississippi	
Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	101,229 (13.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	95,556
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty ($46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	618,332
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.7%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	29.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	25.4%

Child Hunger in Mississippi	
Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	269,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	64%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	400,490
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	27,561
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	97,276

Early Childhood Development in Mississippi	
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	30,043
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	27,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	$3,900
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	26.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	36.8%
Education in Mississippi	
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	$8,064
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	78.2%
unable to do math at grade level	74.9%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	79.0%
unable to do math at grade level	80.7%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	15,637
Child Welfare in Mississippi	
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	7,403
Number of children in foster care	3,582
Number of children adopted from foster care	355
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	51,531
Youth at Risk in Mississippi	
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.6%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	62.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	33.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	9,038
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	413
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.72
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	23
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	10

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.

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