

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Missouri

January 2012



1,425,319 children live in Missouri:
1,064,734 are White, non-Hispanic
202,629 are Black
78,826 are Hispanic
22,490 are Asian/Pacific Islander
4,460 are American Indian/Alaska Native
62,066 are two or more races

In Missouri:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.

Missouri Ranks:*

22nd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
33rd among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
28th 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 Missouri

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	290,959 (20.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	133,543 (9.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	86,415
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$292

Child Health in Missouri

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	123,435 (8.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	86,261
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	548,085
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.7%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.1%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.5%

Child Hunger in Missouri

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	411,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	83%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	646,250
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	33,633
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	145,767

Early Childhood Development in Missouri

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	22,287
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	36,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,950
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	12.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.2%

Education in Missouri

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,891
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.0%
unable to do math at grade level	58.6%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	64.8%
unable to do math at grade level	68.5%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	19,648

Child Welfare in Missouri

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	5,313
Number of children in foster care	9,880
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,236
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	49,354

Youth at Risk in Missouri

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	83.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	22.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	34,168
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,226
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.02
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	78
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	20

**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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