

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Nebraska

January 2012



454,945 children live in Nebraska:
334,040 are White, non-Hispanic
25,822 are Black
65,532 are Hispanic
8,708 are Asian/Pacific Islander
6,122 are American Indian/Alaska Native
21,191 are two or more races

In Nebraska:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 days.

Nebraska Ranks:*

14th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
8th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
21st 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 Nebraska

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	81,952 (18.2%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	32,591 (7.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	15,595
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$364

Child Health in Nebraska

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	48,598 (10.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	47,922
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	164,435
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	58.4%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	90.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	23.4%

Child Hunger in Nebraska

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	80,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	63%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	249,596
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	10,576
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	43,563

Early Childhood Development in Nebraska

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	75.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	6,868
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	13,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,850
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	18.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	38.2%

Education in Nebraska

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,846
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	63.7%
unable to do math at grade level	60.6%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	65.2%
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	3,118

Child Welfare in Nebraska

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,572
Number of children in foster care	5,358
Number of children adopted from foster care	437
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	9,909

Youth at Risk in Nebraska

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	13,662
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	773
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.01

**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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