

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Jersey

January 2012



2,070,177 children live in New Jersey:
1,082,777 are White, non-Hispanic
315,140 are Black
449,867 are Hispanic
174,936 are Asian/Pacific Islander
5,551 are American Indian/Alaska Native
86,076 are two or more races

In New Jersey:

A child is abused or neglected every 59 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.

New Jersey Ranks:*

25th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
13th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
3rd 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 New Jersey

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	295,346 (14.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	131,256 (6.4%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	83,839
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$424

Child Health in New Jersey

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	190,871 (9.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	187,211
CHIP eligibility: 350 percent of federal poverty (\$80,675 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	617,895
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.5%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	20.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	38.3%

Child Hunger in New Jersey

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	291,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	54%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	727,457
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	49,074
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	168,467

Early Childhood Development in New Jersey

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	18,785
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	35,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,250
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	27.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	38.8%

Education in New Jersey

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$17,076
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	56.1%
unable to do math at grade level	49.3%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	55.3%
unable to do math at grade level	53.2%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	18,626

Child Welfare in New Jersey

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	8,981
Number of children in foster care	7,172
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,289
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	50,754

Youth at Risk in New Jersey

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	85.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.9%
Number of juvenile arrests	35,989
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,564
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.34
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	42

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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