

Children's Defense Fund

Children in North Carolina

January 2012



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2,269,470 children live in North Carolina:
1,265,852 are White, non-Hispanic
548,272 are Black
294,434 are Hispanic
54,261 are Asian/Pacific Islander
29,133 are American Indian/Alaska Native
102,767 are two or more races

In North Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 24 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.

North Carolina Ranks:*

42nd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
45th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
44th 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 North Carolina

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	559,875 (24.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	258,770 (11.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	43,219
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$272

Child Health in North Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	213,288 (9.1%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	253,892
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$46,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,243,785
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.2%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	87.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	28.8%

Child Hunger in North Carolina

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	603,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	948,234
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	74,642
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	266,475

Early Childhood Development in North Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	24,538
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	72,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,250
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	7.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	34.8%

Education in North Carolina

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,518
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.3%
unable to do math at grade level	55.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	68.9%
unable to do math at grade level	63.0%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	37,319

Child Welfare in North Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	21,895
Number of children in foster care	8,828
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,615
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	95,027

Youth at Risk in North Carolina

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	75.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	27.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	36,762
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,014
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.85
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	44
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	41

**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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