

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Tennessee

January 2012



1,494,538 children live in Tennessee:
1,017,406 are White, non-Hispanic
303,551 are Black
103,159 are Hispanic
23,125 are Asian/Pacific Islander
3,152 are American Indian/Alaska Native
52,645 are two or more races

In Tennessee:

A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 13 hours.

Tennessee Ranks:*

44th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
44th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
47th 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 Tennessee

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Number of poor children (and percent poor) | 377,066 (25.7%) |
| Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) | 179,557 (12.2%) |
| Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 154,653 |
| Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three | \$185 |

Child Health in Tennessee

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) | 118,134 (8.0%) |
| Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | 81,341 |
| CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$57,625 for a family of four) | |
| Number of children enrolled in Medicaid | 781,567 |
| Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment | 48.7% |
| Medicaid and CHIP participation rate | 90.0% |
| Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures | 28.1% |
| Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized | 23.8% |

Child Hunger in Tennessee

| | |
|--|---------|
| Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps) | 509,000 |
| Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps) | 87% |
| Number of children in the School Lunch Program | 696,554 |
| Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program | 28,574 |
| Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) | 161,578 |

Early Childhood Development in Tennessee

| | |
|--|---------|
| Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force | 62.6% |
| Number of children served by Head Start | 20,563 |
| Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG | 45,700 |
| Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center | \$4,500 |
| Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 8.5% |
| Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 35.3% |

Education in Tennessee

| | |
|---|---------|
| Annual expenditure per public school pupil | \$7,992 |
| Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level | 74.2% |
| unable to do math at grade level | 70.5% |
| Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level | 73.0% |
| unable to do math at grade level | 76.1% |
| Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school | 16,362 |

Child Welfare in Tennessee

| | |
|---|--------|
| Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect | 8,760 |
| Number of children in foster care | 6,786 |
| Number of children adopted from foster care | 857 |
| Number of grandparents raising grandchildren | 72,333 |

Youth at Risk in Tennessee

| | |
|--|--------|
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates | 4.7% |
| Averaged freshman high school graduation rate | 77.4% |
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed | 26.3% |
| Number of juvenile arrests | 33,399 |
| Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities | 1,151 |
| Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil | 2.20 |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides | 50 |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides | 19 |

**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:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787 or (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**