

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:

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