

Children's Defense Fund

Children in West Virginia

January 2012



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388,338 children live in West Virginia:
351,756 are White, non-Hispanic
13,399 are Black
7,428 are Hispanic
2,088 are Asian
192 are American Indian/Alaska Native
14,767 are two or more races

In West Virginia:

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

West Virginia Ranks:*

44th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
39th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
22nd 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 West Virginia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	95,744 (25.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	40,872 (10.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	23,479
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$340

Child Health in West Virginia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	10,982 (2.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	37,539
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	247,953
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.1%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	90.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.5%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	37.4%

Child Hunger in West Virginia

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	128,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	91%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	206,190
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	16,807
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	49,117

Early Childhood Development in West Virginia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	57.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	9,369
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	18.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	78.4%

Education in West Virginia

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,821
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	73.3%
unable to do math at grade level	68.8%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	75.9%
unable to do math at grade level	78.7%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	6,099

Child Welfare in West Virginia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,961
Number of children in foster care	4,097
Number of children adopted from foster care	662
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	20,581

Youth at Risk in West Virginia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	26.9%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,954
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	565
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.84
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	10

**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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