

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Wisconsin

January 2012



1,340,524 children live in Wisconsin:
992,575 are White, non-Hispanic
117,903 are Black
131,004 are Hispanic
40,491 are Asian/Pacific Islander
14,994 are American Indian/Alaska Native
58,804 are two or more races

In Wisconsin:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 17 hours.

Wisconsin Ranks:*

14th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
29th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
17th 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 Wisconsin

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	249,826 (19.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	101,312 (7.7%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	61,577
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$673

Child Health in Wisconsin

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	61,324 (4.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	161,469
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	520,003
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	44.1%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	88.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	17.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	19.9%

Child Hunger in Wisconsin

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	325,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	63%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	605,399
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	82,292
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	121,516

Early Childhood Development in Wisconsin

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	72.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	19,524
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	31,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,050
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	62.5%

Education in Wisconsin

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$11,183
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.4%
unable to do math at grade level	53.2%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	65.1%
unable to do math at grade level	59.0%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	13,510

Child Welfare in Wisconsin

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,569
Number of children in foster care	6,575
Number of children adopted from foster care	755
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	27,730

Youth at Risk in Wisconsin

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	90.7%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	19.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	63,925
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,395
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.20
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	14
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in suicides	17

**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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