Children in Alaska

March 2013

187,865 children live in Alaska:

- 99,063 are White, non-Hispanic
- 6,783 are Black
- 14,800 are Hispanic
- 11,847 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 31,874 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 28,448 are two or more races
- 54,543 are under the age of 5
- 92,579 are ages 5 to 13
- 41,319 are ages 14 to 17
- 133,898 are ages 5 to 17

In Alaska:

A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 days.

Alaska Ranks:*

1st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

1st among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

5th 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 Alaska

- Number of poor children (and percent poor): 26,941 (14.5%)
- Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty): 12,856 (6.9%)
- Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 6,921
- Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three: $923

Child Health in Alaska

- Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured): 20,493 (10.7%)
- Number of children enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP): 12,787
- CHIP eligibility: 175 percent of federal poverty ($41,213 for a family of four)
- Number of children enrolled in Medicaid: 79,286
- Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment: 57.5%
- Medicaid and CHIP participation rate: 82.0%
- Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures: 35.2%
- Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized: 32.3%

Child Hunger in Alaska

- Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps): 39,000
- Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps): 73%
- Number of children in the School Lunch Program: 53,920
- Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program: 4,661
- Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children): 24,969
Early Childhood Development in Alaska
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force 63.2%
Number of children served by Head Start 4,094
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG 4,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center $8,856
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs 13.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs 21.4%

Education in Alaska
Annual expenditure per public school pupil $15,829
Percent of public school fourth graders:
   unable to read at grade level 74.4%
   unable to do math at grade level 63.4%
Percent of public school eighth graders:
   unable to read at grade level 69.0%
   unable to do math at grade level 64.8%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school 2,542 (6.5%)

Child Welfare in Alaska
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect 2,898
Number of children in foster care 1,829
Number of children adopted from foster care 294
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren 6,047

Youth at Risk in Alaska
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate 75.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed 20.4%
Number of juvenile arrests 3,453
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities 249
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil 4.6
Number of children and teens killed by firearms 18

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of March 20, 2013. Most of the data are from 2011 and 2010. For more information on data year, sources, and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrensdefense.org/cits.

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