

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Arkansas

March 2013



710,123 children live in Arkansas:

463,714 are White, non-Hispanic	196,345 are under the age of 5
135,559 are Black	357,397 are ages 5 to 13
75,330 are Hispanic	156,732 are ages 14 to 17
11,454 are Asian/Pacific Islander	514,129 are ages 5 to 17
4,878 are American Indian/Alaska Native	
24,443 are two or more races	

### In Arkansas:

A child is abused or neglected every 47 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.

### Arkansas Ranks:\*

43rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

41st among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

35th among states in per pupil expenditures.

The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### Child Poverty in Arkansas

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	196,538 (28.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	88,384 (12.6%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	12,941
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$204

### Child Health in Arkansas

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	56,055 (8.1%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	103,693
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$47,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	410,602
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.5%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	92.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	36.8%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	28.5%

### Child Hunger in Arkansas

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	215,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	72%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	348,566
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	26,217
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	94,293

### **Early Childhood Development in Arkansas**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	12,964
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	14,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,695
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	25.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	64.1%

### **Education in Arkansas**

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,281
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	69.9%
unable to do math at grade level	62.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	72.2%
unable to do math at grade level	70.7%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	6,979 (4.5%)

### **Child Welfare in Arkansas**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,105
Number of children in foster care	3,732
Number of children adopted from foster care	591
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	36,392

### **Youth at Risk in Arkansas**

Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	75.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	8,320
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	836
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.9
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	25

**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](http://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](http://www.childrensdefense.org)**