

Children's Defense Fund

Children in California

March 2013



9,286,238 children live in California:

2,540,556 are White, non-Hispanic
560,205 are Black
4,754,860 are Hispanic
1,033,404 are Asian/Pacific Islander
73,816 are American Indian/Alaska Native
688,769 are two or more races

2,538,786 are under the age of 5
4,566,850 are ages 5 to 13
2,166,283 are ages 14 to 17
6,733,133 are ages 5 to 17

In California:

A child is abused or neglected every 7 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 hours.

California Ranks:*

12th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

7th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

34th 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 California

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	2,084,522 (22.8%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	868,106 (9.5%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1,140,453
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$638

Child Health in California

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,007,710 (10.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1,763,831
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$58,875 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	4,565,016
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	38.3%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	84.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	23.6%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	22.6%

Child Hunger in California

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	2,118,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	55%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	3,333,430
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	104,759
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1,472,347

Early Childhood Development in California

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	136,751
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	110,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,237
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	17.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	32.5%

Education in California

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,300
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	75.4%
unable to do math at grade level	66.2%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	76.3%
unable to do math at grade level	74.7%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	88,492 (4.0%)

Child Welfare in California

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	80,100
Number of children in foster care	55,409
Number of children adopted from foster care	5,351
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	316,374

Youth at Risk in California

Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	78.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	35.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	144,768
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	13,309
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.4
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	361

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.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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