Children's Defense Fund

Children in Iowa

March 2013

725,809 children live in Iowa:

590,897 are White, non-Hispanic
31,354 are Black
62,989 are Hispanic
12,676 are Asian
3,140 are American Indian/Alaska Native
33,448 are two or more races

199,353 are under the age of 5
362,399 are ages 5 to 13
162,618 are ages 14 to 17
525,017 are ages 5 to 17

In Iowa:
A child is abused or neglected every 48 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.

Iowa Ranks:*
7th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
11th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
28th 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 Iowa

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	122,828 (17.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	57,203 (8.1%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	30,321
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	$426

Child Health in Iowa

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	35,511 (4.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	75,133
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty ($70,650 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	306,158
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	47.4%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	89.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.1%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	22.9%

Child Hunger in Iowa

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	161,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	88%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	395,568
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	11,109
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	69,159

Early Childhood Development in Iowa	
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	74.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	9,756
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	15,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	$7,551
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	11.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	65.1%

Education in Iowa	
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	$9,748
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	66.8%
unable to do math at grade level	56.9%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	67.3%
unable to do math at grade level	66.4%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	7,930 (4.5%)

Child Welfare in Iowa	
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,028
Number of children in foster care	6,344
Number of children adopted from foster care	864
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	15,501

Youth at Risk in Iowa	
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	87.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	15,779
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,060
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	16

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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