Children in New Jersey

March 2013

2,058,138 children live in New Jersey:

- 1,058,756 are White, non-Hispanic
- 310,191 are Black
- 461,332 are Hispanic
- 175,909 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5,855 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 92,601 are two or more races

535,889 are under the age of 5
1,024,996 are ages 5 to 13
481,925 are ages 14 to 17
1,506,921 are ages 5 to 17

In New Jersey:
A child is abused or neglected every 64 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 17 hours.

New Jersey Ranks:

33rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
- Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

8th among states in its infant mortality rate.
- Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

3rd 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 New Jersey

- Number of poor children (and percent poor) 296,198 (14.7%)
- Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) 141,122 (7.0%)
- Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 58,562
- Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three $424

Child Health in New Jersey

- Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) 189,821 (9.4%)
- Number of children enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) 198,283
- CHIP eligibility: 350 percent of federal poverty ($82,425 for a family of four)
- Number of children enrolled in Medicaid 639,764
- Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment 56.3%
- Medicaid and CHIP participation rate 86.0%
- Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures 22.1%
- Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized 26.1%

Child Hunger in New Jersey

- Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps) 337,000
- Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps) 60%
- Number of children in the School Lunch Program 728,775
- Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program 40,242
- Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) 172,333
Early Childhood Development in New Jersey
Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force 65.7%
Number of children served by Head Start 19,061
Average monthly number of children served by the
  Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG 38,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center $9,098
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs 28.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs 39.7%

Education in New Jersey
Annual expenditure per public school pupil $17,379
Percent of public school fourth graders:
  unable to read at grade level 56.1%
  unable to do math at grade level 49.3%
Percent of public school eighth graders:
  unable to read at grade level 55.3%
  unable to do math at grade level 53.2%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school 15,308 (3.2%)

Child Welfare in New Jersey
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect 8,238
Number of children in foster care 6,440
Number of children adopted from foster care 1,089
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren 45,869

Youth at Risk in New Jersey
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate 87.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed 23.5%
Number of juvenile arrests 30,690
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities 1,564
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil 2.3
Number of children and teens killed by firearms 51

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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