

# Children's Defense Fund

## 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

[\*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 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](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)