

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in North Carolina

March 2013



2,278,862 children live in North Carolina:

1,258,744 are White, non-Hispanic  
547,110 are Black  
309,164 are Hispanic  
55,558 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
29,420 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
109,161 are two or more races

629,791 are under the age of 5  
1,155,137 are ages 5 to 13  
502,665 are ages 14 to 17  
1,657,802 are ages 5 to 17

### In North Carolina:

A child is abused or neglected every 23 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 10 hours.

### North Carolina Ranks:\*

41st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

36th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

45th 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 North Carolina

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	579,725 (25.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	259,877 (11.5%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	36,739
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$272

### Child Health in North Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	214,911 (9.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	254,460
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$47,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,194,999
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.0%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	88.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.0%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	26.7%

### Child Hunger in North Carolina

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	702,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	78%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	942,608
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	92,935
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	269,335

### **Early Childhood Development in North Carolina**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	28,310
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	86,200
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,774
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	8.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	35.1%

### **Education in North Carolina**

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,225
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	66.3%
unable to do math at grade level	55.7%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	68.9%
unable to do math at grade level	63.0%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	29,347 (5.4%)

### **Child Welfare in North Carolina**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	22,940
Number of children in foster care	8,601
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,463
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	101,577

### **Youth at Risk in North Carolina**

Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	32.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	40,803
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,014
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.0
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	79

**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)**