

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Tennessee

March 2013



1,493,767 children live in Tennessee:

1,010,935 are White, non-Hispanic	405,017 are under the age of 5
302,549 are Black	749,982 are ages 5 to 13
109,136 are Hispanic	337,137 are ages 14 to 17
23,259 are Asian/Pacific Islander	1,087,119 are ages 5 to 17
3,102 are American Indian/Alaska Native	
54,743 are two or more races	

In Tennessee:

A child is abused or neglected every 57 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.

Tennessee Ranks:*

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

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

49th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

46th 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 Tennessee

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	385,931 (26.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	176,643 (12.0%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	110,620
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$185

Child Health in Tennessee

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	88,461 (5.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	96,028
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$58,875 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	792,302
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.9%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	90.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.0%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	27.9%

Child Hunger in Tennessee

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	519,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	92%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	687,452
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	32,709
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	162,775

Early Childhood Development in Tennessee

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	21,190
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	52,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,578
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	9.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	35.3%

Education in Tennessee

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,117
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	74.2%
unable to do math at grade level	70.5%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	73.0%
unable to do math at grade level	76.1%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	12,568 (3.6%)

Child Welfare in Tennessee

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,243
Number of children in foster care	7,647
Number of children adopted from foster care	772
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	71,038

Youth at Risk in Tennessee

Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	80.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	28.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	33,318
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,151
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.2
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	63

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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