

Children's Defense Fund

Children in the United States

March 2013 (updated July 2013)



74,045,062 children live in the United States:

39,613,505 are White, non-Hispanic
10,711,926 are Black
17,142,759 are Hispanic
3,378,051 are Asian/Pacific Islander
735,337 are American Indian/Alaska Native
3,947,878 are two or more races

20,162,058 are under the age of 5
36,910,128 are ages 5 to 13
16,862,086 are ages 14 to 17
53,772,214 are ages 5 to 17

In the United States:

A child is abused or neglected every 47 seconds.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 21 minutes.

Among Industrialized Nations the United States Ranks:

Worst in relative child poverty
31st in the gap between the rich and the poor
29th in the infant mortality rate
6th in per-capita education expenditures

Child Poverty in the United States

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	16,134,000 (21.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	7,252,000 (9.8%)
Number of children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	3,248,494

Child Health in the United States

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	6,964,457 (9.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	7,970,879
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	35,571,506
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.3%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	84.8%
Percent of 19-35 months-olds not fully immunized	26.7%

Child Hunger in the United States

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	19,927,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	75%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	31,226,968
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	2,301,111
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	8,690,556

Early Childhood Development in the United States

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	1,097,064
Average monthly number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	32,931

Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,705
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	41.8%
Education in the United States	
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,652
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	67.6%
unable to do math at grade level	60.3%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	68.4%
unable to do math at grade level	66.5%
Number (percentage) of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	864,220 (4.9%)
Child Welfare in the United States	
Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	666,298
Number of children in foster care	396,177
Number of children adopted from foster care	50,460
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	2,732,099
Youth at Risk in the United States	
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	78.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,216,481
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	81,015
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.4
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	2,694

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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