



# Children in the States

## DELAWARE

July 2015

### Child Population

**204,247 children lived in Delaware in 2014; 49 percent were children of color.**

- 51 percent were White
- 15 percent were Hispanic
- 25 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

### Child Poverty

**More than 1 in 6 (18 percent) of Delaware's children were poor in 2013, a total of 36,060 children.<sup>1</sup>**

- Delaware ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1 in 11 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 5 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

**Children of color in Delaware are disproportionately poor.**

- More than 1 in 4 Black children and nearly 2 in 5 Hispanic children were poor in 2013, compared to nearly 1 in 11 White children.

### Child Hunger and Homelessness

**Child poverty in Delaware leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.**

- Nearly 4,000 Delaware public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Delaware and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 20 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. 32 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Delaware ranked 12<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 32<sup>nd</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 34 percent of Delaware children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 81 percent of Delaware children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Delaware 16<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

### Child Health

**Although the majority of Delaware's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage or access to care, which can jeopardize their education and their future.**

- In FY2013, 92.1 percent of eligible children participated in Delaware Medical Assistance Program or Healthy Children, Delaware's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 96,916 Delaware children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Delaware Medical Assistance Program, and 13,180 in Healthy Children.

<sup>1</sup> A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

<sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> is the worst for children.

- More than 9,000 Delaware children ages 0-17 (4.5 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 12th lowest uninsured rate among states.
- In 2012, 5,000 children ages 0-18 were eligible for Delaware Medical Assistance Program or Healthy Children but not enrolled.

## Early Childhood and Education

### Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$9,058 – 19.6 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Delaware did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 46 percent of Delaware’s 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 36 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Delaware’s state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

### Delaware’s schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 62 percent of Delaware’s fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 58 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 77 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 79 percent could not compute.
  - 75 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 73 percent could not compute.
- 77 percent of Delaware public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Delaware 39<sup>th</sup> among states. 69 percent of Black students and 70 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 81 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 15 percent of Delaware public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Delaware 44<sup>th</sup> among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 26 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

## Children Facing Special Risks

### Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Delaware, 1,915 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.4 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 704 Delaware children in foster care.

### Too many Delaware children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 4,598 children were arrested in Delaware in 2012 – a rate of 5,018 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 180 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 72 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 7 percent were Hispanic, and 22 percent were White.
- 7 Delaware children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Delaware spent 2.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

### Delaware ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 41 states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 10 children and teens were killed by guns in Delaware in 2013 – a rate of 4.3\* out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)

\*Rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.