



Children in the States

MARYLAND

July 2015

Child Population

1,350,544 children lived in Maryland in 2014; 56 percent were children of color.

- 44 percent were White
- 13 percent were Hispanic
- 31 percent were Black
- 6 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 7 (13.6 percent) of Maryland's children were poor in 2013, a total of 180,351 children.¹

- Maryland ranked 6th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 15 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; more than half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Maryland are disproportionately poor.

- More than 1 in 5 Black children, nearly 1 in 6 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2013, compared to more than 1 in 14 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Maryland leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- Nearly 16,000 Maryland public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Maryland and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 19 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 32 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Maryland ranked 9th of 50 states in child food security and 31st in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 24 percent of Maryland children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 78 percent of Maryland children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Maryland 8th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

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

- In 2013, 91.2 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid/Medical Assistance or Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), Maryland's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 490,009 Maryland children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid/Medical Assistance, and an additional 135,454 in MCHP thanks to additional CHIP funding.
- More than 59,000 Maryland children ages 0-17 (4.4 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 11th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

¹ 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, \$979 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

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

- In 2012, 37,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid/Medical Assistance or Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) 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 \$13,897 – 64 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Maryland had 1,643 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 48 percent of Maryland's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 35 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Maryland's state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Maryland's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 55 percent of Maryland's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 53 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 78 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 78 percent could not compute.
 - 65 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 67 percent could not compute.
- 84 percent of Maryland public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Maryland 16th among states. 74. percent of Black students and 85 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 87 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 9 percent of Maryland public school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Maryland 22nd among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 15 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Maryland, 12,397 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.2 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 4,504 Maryland children in foster care.

Too many Maryland children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 27,311 children were arrested in Maryland in 2012– a rate of 4,482 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 939 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 78 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 5 percent were Hispanic, and 16 percent were White.
- 22 Maryland children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Maryland spent 3.3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Maryland ranked 16th out of 41 ranked states in child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 42 children and teens were killed by guns in Maryland in 2013—a rate of 2.8 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits