



# 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.<sup>1</sup>**

- Maryland ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- 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 9<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

<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, \$979 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.

- 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)