Children in the States

MICHIGAN

July 2015

Child Population

2,223,790 children lived in Michigan in 2014; 32 percent were children of color.

- 68 percent were White
- 8 percent were Hispanic
- 16 percent were Black
- 3 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 4 (23.8 percent) of Michigan's children were poor in 2013, a total of 523,798 children.[1]

- Michigan ranked 35th in child poverty among states.[2]
- More than 1 in 9 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 3 in 10 children under age 6 were poor; more than half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Michigan are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 2 Black children, nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and nearly 2 in 5 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2013, compared to more than 1 in 6 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 39,000 Michigan public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Michigan and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 21 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 33 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Michigan ranked 20th of 50 states in child food security and 34th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 29 percent of Michigan children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 87 percent of Michigan children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Michigan 30th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

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

- In 2013, 92.7 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or MIChild, Michigan's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 1,195,649 Michigan children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 89,670 in MIChild.
- Nearly 90,000 Michigan children ages 0-17 (4.0 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 5th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

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[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, $993 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, 71,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or MIChild 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 $9,724 –16.2 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Michigan did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 46 percent of Michigan's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 40 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Michigan's state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 69 percent of Michigan's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 63 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 88 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 90 percent could not compute.
  - 79 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 78 percent could not compute.
- 77 percent of Michigan public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Michigan 39th among states. 60 percent of Black students and 51 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 83 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 12 percent of Michigan public school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Michigan 35th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 28 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Michigan, 33,938 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 15.1 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 14,464 Michigan children in foster care.

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

- 27,133 children were arrested in Michigan in 2012– a rate of 2,530 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 2,085 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 53 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 5 percent were Hispanic, and 38 percent were White.
- 73 Michigan children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Michigan spent 2.8 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Michigan ranked 32nd out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 104 children and teens were killed by guns in Michigan in 2013 – a rate of 4.1 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit **www.childrensdefense.org/cits**