



Children in the States

UTAH

July 2015

Child Population

904,115 children lived in Utah in 2014; 25 percent were children of color.

- 75 percent were White
- 17 percent were Hispanic
- 1 percent were Black
- 2 percent were Asian
- 3 percent were two or more races
- 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- 1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 7 (14.8 percent) of Utah's children were poor in 2013, a total of 130,345 children.¹

- Utah ranked 9th in child poverty among states.²
- 1 in 18 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 1 in 3 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Utah are disproportionately poor.

- More than 2 in 5 Black children, more than 3 in 10 Hispanic children, and more than 1 in 3 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2013, compared to more than 1 in 10 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- More than 15,000 Utah public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Utah and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 20 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 22 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Utah ranked 15th of 50 states in child food security and 1st in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 14 percent of Utah children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 89 percent of Utah children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Utah 38th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Utah'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 2013, 78.8 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or CHIP, Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 283,213 Utah children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 63,001 in CHIP.
- Nearly 85,000 Utah children ages 0-17 (9.5 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 9th highest 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, \$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, 58,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or CHIP 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 \$8,052 – 36.3 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Utah.
- Utah did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 40 percent of Utah's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 31 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.

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

- In 2013, 63 percent of Utah's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 56 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 86 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
- 78 percent of Utah public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Utah 34th among states. 60 percent of Black students and 65 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 80 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 4 percent of Utah public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Utah 2nd among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 10 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Utah, 9,306 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 10.4 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 2,710 Utah children in foster care.

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

- 19,834 children were arrested in Utah in 2012 – a rate of 5,313 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 732 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 6 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 32 percent were Hispanic, and 55 percent were White.
- 1 Utah child was in an adult jail in 2013.
- Utah spent 5.3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Utah ranked 15th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 27 children and teens were killed by guns in Utah in 2013 – a rate of 2.7 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits