



# Children in the States

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 2015

### Child Population

**267,141 children lived in New Hampshire in 2014; 14 percent were children of color.**

- 86 percent were White
- 6 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 3 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 8 (13 percent) of New Hampshire's children were poor in 2014, a total of 34,463 children.<sup>1</sup>**

- New Hampshire ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 21 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 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

**Children of color in New Hampshire are disproportionately poor.**

- Nearly 1 in 4 Black children, more than 1 in 4 Hispanic children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 9 White children.

### Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- More than 3,000 New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- 15 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. 26 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. New Hampshire ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 5<sup>th</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 18 percent of New Hampshire children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 87 percent of New Hampshire children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking New Hampshire 31<sup>st</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

### Child Health

**Although the majority of New Hampshire'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.**

<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.

- In 2013, 90.4 percent of eligible children participated in NH Medicaid or Healthy Kids, New Hampshire's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 85,562 New Hampshire children ages 0-18 were enrolled in NH Medicaid, and 19,450 in Healthy Kids.
- More than 10,000 New Hampshire children ages 0-17 (3.8 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 9,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for NH Medicaid or Healthy Kids 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 \$11,901 – 18.8 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- New Hampshire did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 46 percent of New Hampshire's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 43 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.

### **New Hampshire's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.**

- In 2013, 55 percent of New Hampshire's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 41 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 73 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level.
  - 82 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 66 percent could not compute.
- 87 percent of New Hampshire public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing New Hampshire 9<sup>th</sup> among states. 74 percent of Black students and 86 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 New Hampshire public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing New Hampshire 22<sup>nd</sup> among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 21 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

## **Children Facing Special Risks**

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

- In New Hampshire, 822 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 3 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 749 New Hampshire children in foster care.

### **Too many New Hampshire children are involved in the juvenile justice system.**

- 7,306 children were arrested in New Hampshire in 2012 – a rate of 5,434 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 90 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 10 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 10 percent were Hispanic, and 80 percent were White.
- No New Hampshire children were in adult jails in 2013.
- New Hampshire spent 2.2 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

### **Fewer than 10 children and teens were killed by guns in New Hampshire in 2013.**

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