



Children in the States

OHIO

September 2015

Child Population

2,638,304 children lived in Ohio in 2014; 27 percent were children of color.

- 73 percent were White
- 6 percent were Hispanic
- 15 percent were Black
- 2 percent were Asian
- 4 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 4 (22.9 percent) of Ohio's children were poor in 2014, a total of 593,831 children, more than the combined populations of Cleveland and Akron.¹

- Ohio ranked 36th in child poverty among states.²
- 1 in 9 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 4 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Ohio are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 2 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and more than 1 in 2 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 6 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 24,000 Ohio public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Ohio and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 24 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 31 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Ohio ranked 34th of 50 states in child food security and 28th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 28 percent of Ohio 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 Ohio children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs – ranking Ohio 37th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Ohio'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, 90.2 percent of eligible children participated in Ohio Medicaid or Healthy Start, Ohio's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 1,483,179 Ohio children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Ohio Medicaid, and an additional 286,817 in Healthy Start.

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.

- More than 141,000 Ohio children ages 0-17 (5.3 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 14th lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 108,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Ohio Medicaid or Healthy Start 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 \$7,771 – 21.6 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Ohio.
- Ohio did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 45 percent of Ohio's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 37 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Ohio's state-funded preschool program met 4 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 63 percent of Ohio's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 52 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 89 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
 - 75 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 64 percent could not compute.
- 84 percent of Ohio public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Ohio 16th among states. 64 percent of Black students and 82 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 89 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 10 percent of Ohio public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Ohio 29th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 26 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Ohio, 27,562 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 10.4 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 12,249 Ohio children in foster care.

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

- 2,490 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 48 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 3 percent were Hispanic, and 44 percent were White.
- 20 Ohio children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Ohio spent 1.7 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Ohio ranked 21st out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 96 children and teens were killed by guns in Ohio in 2013 – a rate of 3.2 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits