

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Alabama



November 2008

1,123,537 children live in Alabama:

- 4,774 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 10,756 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 17,914 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 47,919 are Hispanic
- 350,253 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 691,921 are White, non-Hispanic

In Alabama:

- A child is born into poverty every 31 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 56 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 6 days.

Alabama Ranks:*

43rd among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

47th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

48th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Alabama

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	269,086 (24.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	124,561 (11.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	40,186
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$215

Child Health in Alabama

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	78,000 (6.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	106,691
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	464,070
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	48.9%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	29.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	21.8%

Child Hunger in Alabama

Number of children who receive food stamps	276,831
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	576,954
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	26,042
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	126,280

Early Childhood Development in Alabama

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	62.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	16,374
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	28,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,888
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	12.7%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.67%

Education in Alabama

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,073
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	71%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	74%

Child Welfare in Alabama

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,378
Number of children in foster care	7,157
Number of children adopted from foster care	387
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	58,794

Youth at Risk in Alabama

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	9.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	66.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	16.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	11,577
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,752
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.5:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 39 homicides; 17 suicides; 7 accidents; and 1 undetermined	64

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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