

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Alaska*



November 2008

182,218 children live in Alaska:

- 8,086 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 8,768 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 14,678 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 14,834 are Hispanic
- 32,216 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 103,636 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Alaska:**

- A child is born into poverty every 6 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 6 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 weeks.

### **Alaska Ranks:\***

- 1<sup>st</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
  - 9<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
  - 14<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
- [\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### **Child Poverty in Alaska**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	20,439 (11.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	7,851 (4.4%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,466
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$923

### **Child Health in Alaska**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	20,000 (10.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	17,558
CHIP eligibility: 175 percent of federal poverty (\$48,247 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	69,835
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	60.2%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	37.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	29.9%

### **Child Hunger in Alaska**

Number of children who receive food stamps	25,630
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	67%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	52,884
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	1,188
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	25,205

### **Early Childhood Development in Alaska**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	60.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	1,583
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,092
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	22.4%

### **Education in Alaska**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$10,847
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	71%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	62%

### **Child Welfare in Alaska**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,481
Number of children in foster care	1,993
Number of children adopted from foster care	212
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	5,953

### **Youth at Risk in Alaska**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	66.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	18.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	4,136
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	363
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.7:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 5 homicides; 8 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	13

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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