

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Arizona



November 2008

1,669,866 children live in Arizona:

- 37,342 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 39,657 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 67,744 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 87,460 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 701,723 are Hispanic
- 735,940 are White, non-Hispanic

In Arizona:

- A child is born into poverty every 23 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 13 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Arizona Ranks:*

- 12th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 27th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
- 50th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

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

Child Poverty in Arizona

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	330,910 (20.2%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	152,505 (9.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	75,996
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$347

Child Health in Arizona

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	288,000 (16.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	104,209
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	691,907
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	48.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	40.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	24.8%

Child Hunger in Arizona

Number of children who receive food stamps	298,550
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	66%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	632,772
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	10,510
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	186,470

Early Childhood Development in Arizona

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	54.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	13,175
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	30,200
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,390
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	8.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	23.2%

Education in Arizona

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$6,184
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	76%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	69%

Child Welfare in Arizona

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,469
Number of children in foster care	9,731
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,400
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	63,274

Youth at Risk in Arizona

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	9.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	70.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	50,744
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,737
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.9:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 62 homicides; 35 suicides; 2 accidents; and 3 undetermined	102

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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