

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in California*



November 2008

9,383,924 children live in California:

- 44,574 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 302,499 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 589,781 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 960,396 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 2,899,141 are White, non-Hispanic
- 4,587,533 are Hispanic

### **In California:**

- A child is born into poverty every 5 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 6 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 20 hours.

### **California Ranks:\***

- 12<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 30<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 7<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 California**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	1,591,295 (17.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	611,166 (6.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	1,195,251
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$723

### **Child Health in California**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,273,000 (12.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1,538,416
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	4,270,367
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	40.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	22.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.9%

### **Child Hunger in California**

Number of children who receive food stamps	1,296,318
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	50%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	2,980,081
Number of Children in the Summer Food Service Program	92,653
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	1,378,748

### **Early Childhood Development in California**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	56.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	98,353
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	175,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,477
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	26.3%

### **Education in California**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,905
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	77%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	70%

### **Child Welfare in California**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	89,500
Number of children in foster care	78,373
Number of children adopted from foster care	7,364
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	275,987

### **Youth at Risk in California**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	69.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	18.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	231,735
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	15,240
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.8:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 392 homicides; 54 suicides; 25 accidents; and 3 undetermined	474

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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