

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Colorado



November 2008

1,192,679 children live in Colorado:

- 9,234 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 31,603 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 34,941 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 53,464 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 337,335 are Hispanic
- 726,102 are White, non-Hispanic

In Colorado:

- A child is born into poverty every 40 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 48 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 20 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 8 days.

Colorado Ranks:*

- 18th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
- 34th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 41st 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 Colorado

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	191,725 (16.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	89,519 (7.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	22,260
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$356

Child Health in Colorado

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	172,000 (13.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	84,649
CHIP eligibility: 205 percent of federal poverty (\$45,203 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	314,068
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	59.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.0%

Child Hunger in Colorado

Number of children who receive food stamps	127,338
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	54%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	364,556
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	9,879
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	91,062

Early Childhood Development in Colorado

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	59.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	9,820
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	16,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,765
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	12.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	28.7%

Education in Colorado

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,826
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	64%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	59%

Child Welfare in Colorado

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	10,862
Number of children in foster care	8,139
Number of children adopted from foster care	956
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	34,962

Youth at Risk in Colorado

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	75.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	44,178
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,034
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.1:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 19 homicides; 20 suicides; 4 accidents; and 1 undetermined	44

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

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

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**