

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Connecticut*



November 2008

820,216 children live in Connecticut:

- 2,315 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 18,418 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 30,058 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 94,082 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 133,204 are Hispanic
- 542,139 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Connecticut:**

- A child is born into poverty every 2 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 52 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every month.

### **Connecticut Ranks:\***

- 4<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
  - 12<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
  - 21<sup>st</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- [\*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 Connecticut**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	89,373 (11.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	42,695 (5.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	39,204
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$636

### **Child Health in Connecticut**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	60,000 (6.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	23,632
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	122,556
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	36.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	7.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	13.2%

### **Child Hunger in Connecticut**

Number of children who receive food stamps	80,830
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	62%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	317,013
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	6,749
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	53,206

### **Early Childhood Development in Connecticut**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	7,076
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	10,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,111
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	29.7%

### **Education in Connecticut**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$12,263
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	59%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	55%

### **Child Welfare in Connecticut**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	10,174
Number of children in foster care	6,365
Number of children adopted from foster care	649
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	20,254

### **Youth at Risk in Connecticut**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	80.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	15.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	15,185
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	498
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.5:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 7 homicides; 2 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	10

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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