

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Delaware



November 2008

205,646 children live in Delaware:

- 540 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 5,540 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 6,044 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 21,418 are Hispanic
- 50,371 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 121,733 are White, non-Hispanic

In Delaware:

- A child is born into poverty every 4 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 5 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 7 weeks.

Delaware Ranks:*

- 8th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 43rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 46th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

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

Child Poverty in Delaware

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	29,382 (14.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	13,095 (6.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,496
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$338

Child Health in Delaware

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	23,000 (10.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	11,143
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	80,785
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	45.6%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	19.7%

Child Hunger in Delaware

Number of children who receive food stamps	33,312
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	85,672
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	8,035
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	20,405

Early Childhood Development in Delaware

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	2,071
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,656
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	11.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	24.1%

Education in Delaware

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$10,911
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	66%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	60%

Child Welfare in Delaware

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,933
Number of children in foster care	1,074
Number of children adopted from foster care	94
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	8,225

Youth at Risk in Delaware

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	10.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	7,448
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	303
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 4 homicides; 3 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	7

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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