

Children's Defense Fund

Children in The District of Columbia



November 2008

113,720 children live in The District of Columbia:
 251 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 2,737 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 2,824 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 11,196 are Hispanic
 21,794 are White, non-Hispanic
 74,918 are Black, non-Hispanic

In The District of Columbia:

A child is born into poverty every 6 hours.
 A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 days.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 11 days.

The District of Columbia Ranks:*

3rd among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 49th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 51st 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 The District of Columbia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	25,597 (22.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	13,570 (12.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	11,965
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$379

Child Health in The District of Columbia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	9,000 (7.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	6,566
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	77,573
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	48.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	18.4%

Child Hunger in The District of Columbia

Number of children who receive food stamps	34,796
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	71%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	42,685
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	47,905
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	15,190

Early Childhood Development in The District of Columbia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	3,403
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	3,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	No data
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	No data

Education in The District of Columbia

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$13,348
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	86%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	86%

Child Welfare in The District of Columbia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	2,759
Number of children in foster care	2,378
Number of children adopted from foster care	179
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	6,164

Youth at Risk in The District of Columbia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	No data
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	29.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	437
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	339
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	No data
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 26 homicides; 0 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	26

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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