

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Florida



November 2008

4,043,560 children live in Florida:

- 12,276 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 83,201 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 93,345 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 833,346 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 987,247 are Hispanic
- 2,034,145 are White, non-Hispanic

In Florida:

- A child is born into poverty every 12 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 4 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 5 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 days.

Florida Ranks:*

29th among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Utah; worst is The District of Columbia

36th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi

41st among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

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

Child Poverty in Florida

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	678,038 (17.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	276,783 (7.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	77,480
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$303

Child Health in Florida

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	816,000 (19.1%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	323,529
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,629,328
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.8%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	19.7%

Child Hunger in Florida

Number of children who receive food stamps	546,972
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	59%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	1,535,281
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	82,522
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	420,518

Early Childhood Development in Florida

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	35,457
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	108,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,871
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	8.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	71.1%

Education in Florida

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,215
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 Florida

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	134,567
Number of children in foster care	29,229
Number of children adopted from foster care	3,046
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	151,257

Youth at Risk in Florida

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	63.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	121,173
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	7,302
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.1:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 96 homicides; 46 suicides; 5 accidents; and 1 undetermined	148

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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