

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Georgia



November 2008

2,531,609 children live in Georgia:

- 5,882 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 48,749 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 67,931 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 273,527 are Hispanic
- 842,422 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 1,293,098 are White, non-Hispanic

In Georgia:

- A child is born into poverty every 16 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 13 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Georgia Ranks:*

27th among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

42nd among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

43rd 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 Georgia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	490,381 (19.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	225,591 (9.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	38,971
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$280

Child Health in Georgia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	325,000 (12.2%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	356,285
CHIP eligibility: 235 percent of federal poverty (\$51,818 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,122,660
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	61.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	20.4%

Child Hunger in Georgia

Number of children who receive food stamps	474,327
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	74%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	1,268,942
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	83,874
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	283,107

Early Childhood Development in Georgia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	23,436
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	64,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,674
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	11.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	64.9%

Education in Georgia

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,065
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	72%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	68%

Child Welfare in Georgia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	39,802
Number of children in foster care	13,175
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,250
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	100,495

Youth at Risk in Georgia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	9.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	62.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	24,368
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,631
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 54 homicides; 21 suicides; 5 accidents; and 0 undetermined	80

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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