

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Idaho



November 2008

407,712 children live in Idaho:

- 4,763 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 4,925 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 5,864 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 10,383 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 59,726 are Hispanic
- 322,051 are White, non-Hispanic

In Idaho:

- A child is born into poverty every 2 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 3 weeks.

Idaho Ranks:*

- 9th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 16th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 49th 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 Idaho

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	63,591 (15.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	24,241 (6.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	2,187
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$309

Child Health in Idaho

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	52,000 (12.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	33,060
CHIP eligibility: 185 percent of federal poverty (\$40,793 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	132,581
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	64.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	29.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.4%

Child Hunger in Idaho

Number of children who receive food stamps	44,148
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	62%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	165,320
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	17,788
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	38,087

Early Childhood Development in Idaho

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	55.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	2,943
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	9,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,004
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	7.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	17.2%

Education in Idaho

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$6,319
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	65%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	60%

Child Welfare in Idaho

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,651
Number of children in foster care	1,850
Number of children adopted from foster care	177
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	8,384

Youth at Risk in Idaho

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	80.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	12.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	14,339
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	522
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.6:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 5 homicides; 9 suicides; 2 accidents; and 0 undetermined	16

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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