

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Illinois



November 2008

3,199,159 children live in Illinois:

5,383 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic

63,309 are two or more races, non-Hispanic

121,822 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic

562,116 are Black, non-Hispanic

668,999 are Hispanic

1,777,530 are White, non-Hispanic

In Illinois:

A child is born into poverty every 16 minutes.

A child is abused or neglected every 19 minutes.

A child dies before his or her first birthday every 7 hours.

A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 days.

Illinois Ranks:*

21st among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

33rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

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

34th 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 Illinois

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	525,294 (16.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	237,261 (7.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	56,473
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$396

Child Health in Illinois

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	305,000 (9.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	345,576
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four); state-funded expansion to 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,171,355
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	51.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	19.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.5%

Child Hunger in Illinois

Number of children who receive food stamps	593,394
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	75%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	1,120,303
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	50,900
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	279,982

Early Childhood Development in Illinois

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	62.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	39,640
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	82,200
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,802
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	31.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	44.6%

Education in Illinois

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,896
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	68%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	64%

Child Welfare in Illinois

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	27,756
Number of children in foster care	18,367
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,740
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	101,879

Youth at Risk in Illinois

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	79.7%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	16.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	33,775
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	2,631
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.8:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 111 homicides; 13 suicides; 6 accidents; and 0 undetermined	130

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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