

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Iowa*



November 2008

711,403 children live in Iowa:

- 3,095 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 12,779 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 15,747 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 26,758 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 47,404 are Hispanic
- 605,620 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Iowa:**

- A child is abused or neglected every 36 minutes.
- A child is born into poverty every 1 hour.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 weeks.

### **Iowa Ranks:\***

- 7<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
  - 17<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
  - 28<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- [\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### **Child Poverty in Iowa**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	94,586 (13.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	40,368 (5.8%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	39,996
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$426

### **Child Health in Iowa**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	41,000 (5.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	50,238
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	202,979
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	51.2%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	22.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	24.1%

### **Child Hunger in Iowa**

Number of children who receive food stamps	105,476
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	66%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	392,328
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	8,253
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	69,468

### **Early Childhood Development in Iowa**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	71.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	7,710
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	19,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,939
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	11.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.1%

### **Education in Iowa**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,962
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	64%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	57%

### **Child Welfare in Iowa**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	14,589
Number of children in foster care	9,040
Number of children adopted from foster care	984
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	12,941

### **Youth at Risk in Iowa**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	86.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	11.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	19,605
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,062
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.6:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 4 homicides; 10 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	15

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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