

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Kentucky



November 2008

1,003,973 children live in Kentucky:

- 1,880 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 10,537 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 19,897 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 33,466 are Hispanic
- 94,290 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 843,903 are White, non-Hispanic

In Kentucky:

- A child is born into poverty every 34 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 27 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 23 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 10 days.

Kentucky Ranks:*

23rd among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

39th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

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

42nd 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 Kentucky

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	234,959 (23.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	106,618 (10.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	58,681
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$262

Child Health in Kentucky

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	92,000 (8.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	68,776
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	399,268
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	50.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	26.5%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	21.8%

Child Hunger in Kentucky

Number of children who receive food stamps	251,041
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	76%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	548,589
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	64,018
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	129,644

Early Childhood Development in Kentucky

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	62.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	16,070
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	28,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,720
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	29.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	60.1%

Education in Kentucky

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,132
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	67%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	69%

Child Welfare in Kentucky

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	19,833
Number of children in foster care	7,606
Number of children adopted from foster care	759
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	46,312

Youth at Risk in Kentucky

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	8,746
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,242
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.2:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 17 homicides; 16 suicides; 2 accidents; and 1 undetermined	36

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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