

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Louisiana



November 2008

1,079,560 children live in Louisiana:

- 6,571 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 15,401 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 16,147 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 38,633 are Hispanic
- 413,780 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 589,028 are White, non-Hispanic

In Louisiana:

- A child is born into poverty every 30 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 42 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Louisiana Ranks:*

- 36th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 - 49th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 50th 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 Louisiana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	283,350 (26.8%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	124,373 (11.7%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	22,262
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

Child Health in Louisiana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	146,000 (12.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	153,663
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	604,263
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	58.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	22.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	23.0%

Child Hunger in Louisiana

Number of children who receive food stamps	307,897
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	76%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	586,050
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	28,497
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	129,054

Early Childhood Development in Louisiana

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	21,592
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	39,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,610
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	46.7%

Education in Louisiana

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,669
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	80%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	76%

Child Welfare in Louisiana

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	12,472
Number of children in foster care	5,213
Number of children adopted from foster care	466
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	60,671

Youth at Risk in Louisiana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	10.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	59.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	22,355
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,200
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 67 homicides; 30 suicides; 12 accidents; and 1 undetermined	110

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

**Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
1 (800) 233-1200
www.childrensdefense.org**