

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Maine*



November 2008

279,467 children live in Maine:

- 1,891 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 3,461 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 5,015 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 5,353 are Hispanic
- 5,803 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 257,944 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Maine:**

- A child is born into poverty every 4 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 months.

### **Maine Ranks:\***

- 10<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 10<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 26<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

[\*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 Maine**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	41,973 (15.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	17,779 (6.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	23,968
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$485

### **Child Health in Maine**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	19,000 (6.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	31,037
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	No data
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	No data
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	No data
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	27.1%

### **Child Hunger in Maine**

Number of children who receive food stamps	61,232
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	85%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	108,731
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	5,760
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	24,686

### **Early Childhood Development in Maine**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	3,871
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	5,400
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,020
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	16.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	40.8%

### **Education in Maine**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$10,342
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	64%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	58%

### **Child Welfare in Maine**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,548
Number of children in foster care	2,076
Number of children adopted from foster care	331
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	7,471

### **Youth at Risk in Maine**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	7,765
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	210
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 0 homicides; 1 suicide; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	1

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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