

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Minnesota



November 2008

1,260,282 children live in Minnesota:

- 18,151 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 39,257 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 59,160 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 78,531 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 80,077 are Hispanic
- 985,106 are White, non-Hispanic

In Minnesota:

- A child is born into poverty every 53 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 10 days.

Minnesota Ranks:*

- 3rd among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 6th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 24th 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 Minnesota

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	148,649 (12.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	62,080 (5.0%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	47,742
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$532

Child Health in Minnesota

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	92,000 (6.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	5,408
CHIP eligibility: 275 percent of federal poverty (\$60,638 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	373,816
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	23.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	19.5%

Child Hunger in Minnesota

Number of children who receive food stamps	134,878
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	62%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	607,255
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	25,489
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	134,662

Early Childhood Development in Minnesota

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	70.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	10,332
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	27,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$9,350
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	11.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	18.1%

Education in Minnesota

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,718
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	63%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	49%

Child Welfare in Minnesota

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	7,623
Number of children in foster care	7,156
Number of children adopted from foster care	664
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	24,654

Youth at Risk in Minnesota

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	86.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	No data
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,623
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.7:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 16 homicides; 23 suicides; 1 accident; and 2 undetermined	42

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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