

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Missouri



November 2008

1,424,830 children live in Missouri:

- 6,212 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 21,826 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 34,978 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 65,815 are Hispanic
- 203,623 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 1,092,376 are White, non-Hispanic

In Missouri:

- A child is born into poverty every 31 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 5 days.

Missouri Ranks:*

- 23rd among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 31st among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 36th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Missouri

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	247,893 (17.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	114,660 (8.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	86,405
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$292

Child Health in Missouri

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	140,000 (9.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	81,764
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	534,016
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	20.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	23.9%

Child Hunger in Missouri

Number of children who receive food stamps	427,138
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	95%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	639,127
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	24,855
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	134,642

Early Childhood Development in Missouri

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	17,456
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	33,600
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,836
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	22.9%

Education in Missouri

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,858
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	68%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	62%

Child Welfare in Missouri

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	7,108
Number of children in foster care	10,181
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,253
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	46,898

Youth at Risk in Missouri

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	81.0%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	17.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	49,659
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,293
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 44 homicides; 16 suicides; 10 accidents; and 3 undetermined	73

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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