

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Montana*



November 2008

219,498 children live in Montana:

- 1,815 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 2,387 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 6,816 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 9,705 are Hispanic
- 20,199 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 178,576 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Montana:**

- A child is born into poverty every 4 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 5 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 5 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 weeks.

### **Montana Ranks:\***

- 7<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 25<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.  
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 28<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 Montana**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	39,660 (18.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	15,422 (7.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,008
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$405

### **Child Health in Montana**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	32,000 (13.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	20,115
CHIP eligibility: 175 percent of federal poverty (\$38,588 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	62,685
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	27.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	34.7%

### **Child Hunger in Montana**

Number of children who receive food stamps	34,452
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	61%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	83,840
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	5,787
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	19,279

### **Early Childhood Development in Montana**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	60.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	2,919
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,300
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	17.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	26.0%

### **Education in Montana**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,133
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	61%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	56%

### **Child Welfare in Montana**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,775
Number of children in foster care	1,909
Number of children adopted from foster care	272
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	6,870

### **Youth at Risk in Montana**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	81.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	10.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	No data
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	243
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 2 homicides; 15 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	18

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](http://www.childrensdefense.org)**