

Children's Defense Fund

Children in New Jersey



November 2008

2,063,789 children live in New Jersey:
 3,233 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 40,170 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 155,694 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 317,985 are Black, non-Hispanic
 405,459 are Hispanic
 1,141,248 are White, non-Hispanic

In New Jersey:

A child is born into poverty every 35 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 45 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 15 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 10 days.

New Jersey Ranks:*

1st among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 5th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 24th 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 New Jersey

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	236,098 (11.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	110,410 (5.4%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	79,136
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$424

Child Health in New Jersey

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	273,000 (12.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	150,277
CHIP eligibility: 350 percent of federal poverty (\$77,175 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	482,674
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	54.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	17.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	19.5%

Child Hunger in New Jersey

Number of children who receive food stamps	192,124
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	58%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	655,940
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	39,971
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	150,502

Early Childhood Development in New Jersey

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.0%
Number of children served by Head Start	14,854
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	37,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,985
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	24.4%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	36.9%

Education in New Jersey

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$14,117
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	57%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	48%

Child Welfare in New Jersey

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	11,680
Number of children in foster care	10,623
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,325
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	49,732

Youth at Risk in New Jersey

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	84.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	60,840
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,704
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.6:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 40 homicides; 4 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	45

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**