

Children's Defense Fund

Children in North Carolina



November 2008

2,217,680 children live in North Carolina:
 27,740 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 45,694 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 46,304 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 241,551 are Hispanic
 545,996 are Black, non-Hispanic
 1,310,395 are White, non-Hispanic

In North Carolina:

A child is born into poverty every 19 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 18 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

North Carolina Ranks:*

41st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 44th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 44th 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 North Carolina

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	426,047 (19.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	183,076 (8.4%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	44,066
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$272

Child Health in North Carolina

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	304,000 (13.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	240,152
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	841,731
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	53.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.3%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.7%

Child Hunger in North Carolina

Number of children who receive food stamps	430,347
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	58%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	962,367
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	40,496
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	242,088

Early Childhood Development in North Carolina

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	63.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	18,963
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	79,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,756
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	8.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	29.6%

Education in North Carolina

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$6,904
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	71%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	59%

Child Welfare in North Carolina

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	28,422
Number of children in foster care	11,115
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,234
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	87,075

Youth at Risk in North Carolina

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	71.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	44,691
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,029
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.6:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 58 homicides; 26 suicides; 6 accidents; and 1 undetermined	91

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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