

Children's Defense Fund

Children in North Dakota



November 2008

142,809 children live in North Dakota:

- 1,375 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 2,153 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 3,732 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 4,205 are Hispanic
- 12,597 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 118,747 are White, non-Hispanic

In North Dakota:

- A child is born into poverty every 6 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 6 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 week.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 7 weeks.

North Dakota Ranks:*

- 5th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 15th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 33rd 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 North Dakota

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	18,937 (13.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	8,895 (6.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	5,040
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$477

Child Health in North Dakota

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	14,000 (9.1%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	5,469
CHIP eligibility: 150 percent of federal poverty (\$33,075 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	35,767
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	15.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.8%

Child Hunger in North Dakota

Number of children who receive food stamps	20,513
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	57%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	78,909
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	2,202
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	14,545

Early Childhood Development in North Dakota

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	69.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	2,353
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,742
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	28.7%

Education in North Dakota

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,829
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	65%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	54%

Child Welfare in North Dakota

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	1,438
Number of children in foster care	1,331
Number of children adopted from foster care	150
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	3,110

Youth at Risk in North Dakota

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	1.8%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.2%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	8.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	6,769
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	240
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 1 homicides; 9 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	11

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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