

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Pennsylvania



November 2008

2,786,719 children live in Pennsylvania:
 4,359 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 54,685 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 72,643 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 202,231 are Hispanic
 375,906 are Black, non-Hispanic
 2,076,895 are White, non-Hispanic

In Pennsylvania:

A child is born into poverty every 19 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 days.

Pennsylvania Ranks:*

11th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 31st among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 32nd 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 Pennsylvania

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	446,832 (16.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	209,545 (7.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	128,842
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$421

Child Health in Pennsylvania

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	226,000 (7.6%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	227,367
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	987,810
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.3%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	21.2%

Child Hunger in Pennsylvania

Number of children who receive food stamps	479,009
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	68%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	1,142,313
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	104,917
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	244,155

Early Childhood Development in Pennsylvania

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	62.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	35,362
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	82,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	27.2%

Education in Pennsylvania

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$10,235
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	60%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	53%

Child Welfare in Pennsylvania

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,177
Number of children in foster care	21,135
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,926
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	83,770

Youth at Risk in Pennsylvania

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	No data
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	15.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	106,572
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	4,323
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3.4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 99 homicides; 32 suicides; 4 accidents; and 3 undetermined	138

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**