

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Rhode Island



November 2008

233,115 children live in Rhode Island:

- 1,427 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 5,999 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 7,151 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 16,186 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 42,318 are Hispanic
- 160,034 are White, non-Hispanic

In Rhode Island:

- A child is born into poverty every 3 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 4 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 8 weeks.

Rhode Island Ranks:*

- 6th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 19th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 19th 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 Rhode Island

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	40,468 (17.5%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	17,697 (7.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	19,030
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$554

Child Health in Rhode Island

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	18,000 (7.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	26,067
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	91,974
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	24.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	25.0%

Child Hunger in Rhode Island

Number of children who receive food stamps	35,963
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	56%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	85,020
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	12,004
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	24,220

Early Childhood Development in Rhode Island

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	69.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	3,104
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	7,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,800
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	10.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	19.9%

Education in Rhode Island

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$11,667
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	69%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	66%

Child Welfare in Rhode Island

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,400
Number of children in foster care	2,842
Number of children adopted from foster care	258
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	4,275

Youth at Risk in Rhode Island

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.8%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	4,900
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	348
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.0:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 6 homicides; 1 suicide; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	7

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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