

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Texas



November 2008

6,623,366 children live in Texas:

- 21,845 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 106,586 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 197,497 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 800,050 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 2,486,828 are White, non-Hispanic
- 3,010,560 are Hispanic

In Texas:

- A child is born into poverty every 5 minutes.
- A child is abused or neglected every 8 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 hours.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 days.

Texas Ranks:*

- 21st among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 27th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 40th 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 Texas

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	1,512,819 (23.2%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	644,798 (9.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	116,201
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$223

Child Health in Texas

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	1,454,000 (20.9%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	710,690
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	2,660,468
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	66.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	36.8%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.7%

Child Hunger in Texas

Number of children who receive food stamps	1,365,363
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	60%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	3,061,259
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	83,966
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	900,396

Early Childhood Development in Texas

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	56.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	67,630
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	126,200
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,799
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	14.5%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	58.1%

Education in Texas

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,246
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	70%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	60%

Child Welfare in Texas

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	69,065
Number of children in foster care	30,848
Number of children adopted from foster care	3,409
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	281,681

Youth at Risk in Texas

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	8.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	72.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	14.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	169,460
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	8,247
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 164 homicides; 84 suicides; 13 accidents; and 3 undetermined	264

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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