

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Utah



November 2008

816,822 children live in Utah:

- 10,415 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 10,744 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 19,761 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 20,420 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 121,014 are Hispanic
- 634,468 are White, non-Hispanic

In Utah:

- A child is born into poverty every 1 hour.
- A child is abused or neglected every 40 minutes.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 2 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 weeks.

Utah Ranks:*

- 1st among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 10th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 - 51st 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 Utah

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	88,741 (11.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	28,176 (3.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	11,364
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$474

Child Health in Utah

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	112,000 (13.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	44,785
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	174,939
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	57.4%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	29.9%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	26.9%

Child Hunger in Utah

Number of children who receive food stamps	63,880
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	61%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	312,438
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	13,957
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	64,218

Early Childhood Development in Utah

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	50.3%
Number of children served by Head Start	5,400
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	13,000
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$5,400
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	7.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.6%

Education in Utah

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$5,216
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	66%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	61%

Child Welfare in Utah

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	13,043
Number of children in foster care	2,427
Number of children adopted from foster care	503
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	16,464

Youth at Risk in Utah

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	77.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	8.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	23,519
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	864
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	7.8:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 3 homicides; 7 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	10

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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