

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Vermont



November 2008

131,353 children live in Vermont:

- 407 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 1,835 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 1,955 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 2,416 are Hispanic
- 2,619 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 122,121 are White, non-Hispanic

In Vermont:

- A child is born into poverty every 9 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 10 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 9 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 months.

Vermont Ranks:*

- 4th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
- 5th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
- 24th 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 Vermont

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	15,907 (12.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	5,888 (4.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	8,858
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$709

Child Health in Vermont

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	11,000 (7.7%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	6,132
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	68,640
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	42.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	27.7%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	32.7%

Child Hunger in Vermont

Number of children who receive food stamps	18,822
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	68%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	55,358
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	2,482
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	16,308

Early Childhood Development in Vermont

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	76.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	1,552
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	6,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$7,056
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	30.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	63.7%

Education in Vermont

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$11,972
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	59%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	51%

Child Welfare in Vermont

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	861
Number of children in foster care	1,379
Number of children adopted from foster care	164
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	2,175

Youth at Risk in Vermont

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	13.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,645
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	54
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.1:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 1 homicide; 2 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	3

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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