

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Washington



November 2008

1,536,368 children live in Washington:
 25,579 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 62,313 are Black, non-Hispanic
 82,353 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 99,829 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 237,859 are Hispanic
 1,028,435 are White, non-Hispanic

In Washington:

A child is born into poverty every 36 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 21 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 8 days.

Washington Ranks:*

1st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 2nd among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 35th 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 Washington

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	226,424 (15.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	104,261 (6.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	113,364
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$546

Child Health in Washington

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	126,000 (7.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	14,734
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	635,396
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	52.9%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.8%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	31.0%

Child Hunger in Washington

Number of children who receive food stamps	219,633
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	68%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	526,669
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	39,558
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	165,206

Early Childhood Development in Washington

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	57.6%
Number of children served by Head Start	11,278
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	53,200
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,804
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	10.1%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.5%

Education in Washington

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$7,717
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	64%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	56%

Child Welfare in Washington

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	7,294
Number of children in foster care	10,457
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,196
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	40,370

Youth at Risk in Washington

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.9%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	72.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	17.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	34,902
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,455
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 20 homicides; 21 suicides; 1 accident; and 2 undetermined	44

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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