

Children's Defense Fund

Children in West Virginia



November 2008

387,381 children live in West Virginia:
 669 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 2,757 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 5,963 are Hispanic
 7,300 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 18,017 are Black, non-Hispanic
 352,675 are White, non-Hispanic

In West Virginia:

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

West Virginia Ranks:*

18th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 41st among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 46th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 [*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in West Virginia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	86,277 (22.8%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	40,505 (10.7%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	18,702
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$340

Child Health in West Virginia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	29,000 (7.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	38,582
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	195,095
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	51.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	22.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	24.5%

Child Hunger in West Virginia

Number of children who receive food stamps	104,475
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	80%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	208,204
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	13,198
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	49,588

Early Childhood Development in West Virginia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	53.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	7,682
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	9,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,560
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	23.3%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	76.5%

Education in West Virginia

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$9,024
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	72%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	67%

Child Welfare in West Virginia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	8,345
Number of children in foster care	4,012
Number of children adopted from foster care	419
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	20,321

Youth at Risk in West Virginia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.5%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,438
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	579
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.4:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 9 homicides; 9 suicides; 0 accidents; and 1 undetermined	19

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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