

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Wisconsin



November 2008

1,321,279 children live in Wisconsin:
 14,568 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 30,182 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 38,689 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 102,221 are Hispanic
 112,987 are Black, non-Hispanic
 1,022,632 are White, non-Hispanic

In Wisconsin:

A child is born into poverty every 45 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 1 hour.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 19 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every week.

Wisconsin Ranks:*

14th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 15th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 22nd 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 Wisconsin

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	186,980 (14.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	75,959 (5.9%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	37,522
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$673

Child Health in Wisconsin

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	81,000 (5.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	62,523
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four); state-funded expansion to 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	417,492
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	45.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	15.8%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.9%

Child Hunger in Wisconsin

Number of children who receive food stamps	202,616
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	59%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	597,202
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	32,860
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	116,761

Early Childhood Development in Wisconsin

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	72.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	13,538
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	29,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$10,524
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	53.3%

Education in Wisconsin

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$9,755
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	64%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	53%

Child Welfare in Wisconsin

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	8,583
Number of children in foster care	7,556
Number of children adopted from foster care	885
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	27,417

Youth at Risk in Wisconsin

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	4.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	87.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	15.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	103,275
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,347
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 33 homicides; 20 suicides; 3 accidents; and 0 undetermined	56

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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