

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Wyoming



November 2008

125,365 children live in Wyoming:

- 985 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 2,124 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 3,002 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 4,028 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 13,296 are Hispanic
- 101,930 are White, non-Hispanic

In Wyoming:

- A child is born into poverty every 9 hours.
- A child is abused or neglected every 12 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 week.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 7 weeks.

Wyoming Ranks:*

- 12th among states in per pupil expenditures.
Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 - 25th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia
 - 35th 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 Wyoming

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	14,318 (11.6%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	6,314 (5.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	513
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$340

Child Health in Wyoming

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	13,000 (9.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	8,570
CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	50,582
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	63.6%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	30.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	29.8%

Child Hunger in Wyoming

Number of children who receive food stamps	10,681
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	49%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	53,565
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	3,056
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	12,341

Early Childhood Development in Wyoming

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	1,840
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	4,700
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$6,248
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	30.5%

Education in Wyoming

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$10,190
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 Wyoming

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	786
Number of children in foster care	1,304
Number of children adopted from foster care	57
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	4,564

Youth at Risk in Wyoming

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	7.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	76.1%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	11.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	6,682
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	315
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.3:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 3 homicides; 4 suicides; 0 accidents; and 0 undetermined	7

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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