

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Louisiana



April 2010

1,107,973 children live in Louisiana:
 7,726 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 16,656 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 22,577 are two or more races
 45,400 are Hispanic
 422,134 are Black
 600,872 are White, non-Hispanic

In Louisiana:

A child is born into poverty every 30 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 42 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Louisiana Ranks:*

30th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 49th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia
 49th 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 Louisiana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	270,794 (24.7%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	121,784 (11.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	24,170
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

Child Health in Louisiana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	160,000 (13.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	147,863
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	598,007
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	56.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	21.3%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	18.1%

Child Hunger in Louisiana

Number of children who receive food stamps	323,236
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	76%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	585,533
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	30,033
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	141,704

Early Childhood Development in Louisiana

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	65.9%
Number of children served by Head Start	23,193
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	44,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,610
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	46.7%

Education in Louisiana

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,486
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	82%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	77%

Child Welfare in Louisiana

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	10,173
Number of children in foster care	5,065
Number of children adopted from foster care	466
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	62,834

Youth at Risk in Louisiana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	10.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	61.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	19.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	19,068
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,350
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.2:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 75 homicides; 14 suicides; 8 accidents; and 1 undetermined	98

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of April 2010.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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