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The State of American Indian/Alaska Native Children in America

Of the 73.7 million children in the United States in 2012, 0.6 million (0.9 percent) were American Indian or Alaska Native.

American Indian/Alaska Native children and households are more likely to be poor.

- In 2012, American Indian/Alaska Native children were the second poorest group of children, with more than 1 in 3 poor, compared to 1 in 5 among all children.
- An American Indian/Alaska Native child is born into poverty every 33 minutes and into extreme poverty every 44 minutes.[1]
- Each day, 44 American Indian/Alaska Native babies are born into poverty and 33 into extreme poverty.

American Indian/Alaska Native children are less likely to live in traditional two-parent families.

- Each day, 84 American Indian/Alaska Native babies are born to unmarried mothers and 18 to teen mothers. Among children of all races, those in single-parent families were nearly four times more likely to be poor than those in married-couple families.

American Indian/Alaska Native children suffer worse health outcomes.

- Each day, one American Indian/Alaska Native baby dies before his or her first birthday.
- Each day, 10 American Indian/Alaska Native babies are born at low birthweight.
- An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born without health insurance every 75 minutes.
- Each day, one American Indian/Alaska Native child or teen dies from an accident.
- An American Indian/Alaska Native child commits suicide every 5 days.

American Indian/Alaska Native students fall behind early on and do not catch up.

- More than 75 percent of fourth and eighth grade American Indian/Alaska Native students could not read or compute at grade level in 2013, compared to less than 57 percent White students and less than 51 percent Asian students.
- More than 3 in 10 American Indian/Alaska Native public school students did not graduate from high school in four years in 2010, compared to fewer than 2 in 10 White students and less than 1 in 10 Asian students.
- Only 10 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native students were college ready in 2013 according to the ACT® test, compared to 33 percent of White students and 43 percent of Asian students.

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[1] Poverty is defined as living on less than $23,492 a year, $1,958 a month, $452 a week, or $64 a day for a family of four. Extreme poverty is living on less than half the poverty level: less than $11,746 per year or $32 a day for a family of four.

American Indian/Alaska Native children are overrepresented in maltreatment cases and foster care.

- Each day, 21 American Indian/Alaska Native children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- Every 33 days an American Indian/Alaska Native child is killed by abuse or neglect.
- American Indian/Alaska Native children were 0.9 percent of the child population but 2 percent of children in foster care in 2012.

American Indian/Alaska Native children are at a great risk of being funneled into the prison pipeline.

- An American Indian/Alaska Native public school student is suspended every three-and-a-half minutes, resulting in 129 suspended American Indian/Alaska Native students each school day.[2]
- In 2009-2010, American Indian/Alaska Native students were 74 percent more likely to be suspended than White students and over four times more likely than Asian students.
- Every six-and-a-half minutes an American Indian/Alaska Native public high school student drops out, totaling 67 every school day.[2]
- An American Indian/Alaska Native child is arrested every 27 minutes.
- American Indian children were more than three times as likely as White children to be in residential placement within the juvenile justice system in 2011, and 10 times as likely as Asian children.

For sources and additional data please refer to *The State of America's Children 2014* report available at www.childrensdefense.org/SOAC.

[2] Based on 180 school days a year.