

Children's Defense Fund

Children in the United States



November 2008

73,901,733 children live in the United States:

- 657,922 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 1,886,089 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
- 3,054,841 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
- 10,770,371 are Black, non-Hispanic
- 15,419,469 are Hispanic
- 42,113,041 are White, non-Hispanic

In the United States:

- A child is born into poverty every 33 seconds.
- A child is abused or neglected every 35 seconds.
- A child is born uninsured every 39 seconds.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 18 minutes.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 hours.

Child Poverty in The United States

Number of poor children (and percent poor) (18.0%)	13,324,000
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) (7.8%)	5,768,000
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	3,741,535

Child Hunger in The United States

Number of children who receive food stamps	12,559,379
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	30,129,883
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	8,067,728

Child Health in The United States

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) (11.3%)	8.9 million
Number of children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	7,144,794
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	28,259,469
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.8%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	22.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	33.5%

Early Childhood Development in The United States

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	61.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	908,412
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	1,770,100

Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	15.0%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	38.8%

Education in The United States

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$8,044
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	68%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	61%

Child Welfare in The United States

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	905,000
Number of children in foster care	508,446
Number of children adopted from foster care	50,941
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	2,514,256

Youth at Risk in The United States

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	6.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	73.4%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	15.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,268,950
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	92,854
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.8:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 1,972 homicides; 822 suicides; 173 accidents; and 39 undetermined	3,006

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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