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) 13,324,000 (18.0%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) 5,768,000 (7.8%)
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) 8.9 million (11.3%)
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: 3,006
1,972 homicides; 822 suicides; 173 accidents; and 39 undetermined

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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