

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Pennsylvania



January 2011

2,775,132 children live in Pennsylvania:
 9,157 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 72,931 are two or more races
 85,476 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 241,633 are Hispanic
 397,320 are Black
 2,019,005 are White, non-Hispanic

In Pennsylvania:

A child is abused or neglected every 2 hours.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 8 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 3 days.

Pennsylvania Ranks:*

13th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 31st among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 35th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Pennsylvania

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	466,638 (17.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	206,248 (7.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	126,417
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$421

Child Health in Pennsylvania

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	222,000 (7.5%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	264,847**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	1,043,844**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	85.9%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	47.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	28.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	31.0%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

Child Hunger in Pennsylvania

Number of children who receive food stamps	502,300
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	76%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	533,311
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	98,914
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	251,159

Early Childhood Development in Pennsylvania

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.7%
Number of children served by Head Start	41,271
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	93,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$8,060
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	16.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	31.1%

Education in Pennsylvania

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$30,668
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$10,723
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	63%
unable to do math at grade level	54%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	60%
unable to do math at grade level	60%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	37,346

Child Welfare in Pennsylvania

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	4,084
Number of children in foster care	16,878
Number of children adopted from foster care	2,243
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	79,440

Youth at Risk in Pennsylvania

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	5.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	82.7%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	20.6%
Number of juvenile arrests	87,747
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	4,554
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.9
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 126 93 homicides; 21 suicides; 8 accidents; and 4 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

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

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