

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in the United States*



January 2011

74,548,215 children live in the United States:

- 951,329 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2,491,422 are two or more races
- 3,480,257 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 11,280,366 are Black
- 16,750,075 are Hispanic
- 41,225,410 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In the United States:**

- A child is abused or neglected every 42 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 United States**

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	14,656,962 (18.97%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	6,484,069 (8.5%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	4,250,934

### **Child Health in United States**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	8,300,000 (10.4%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	7,717,317
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	28,716,633
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	81.8%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	49.1%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.4%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	30.1%

### **Child Hunger in United States**

Number of children who receive food stamps	13,470,941
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	66%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	18,187,514
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	2,125,820
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	8,483,618

### **Early Childhood Development in United States**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	1,056,789
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	1,619,100
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	38.9%

### **Education in United States**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$24,354
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$9,154
Percent of public school fourth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	68%
unable to do math at grade level	62%
Percent of public school eighth graders:	
unable to read at grade level	70%
unable to do math at grade level	67%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	1,053,234

### **Child Welfare in United States**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	751,049
Number of children in foster care	418,422
Number of children adopted from foster care	57,264
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	2,541,364

### **Youth at Risk in United States**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	6.0%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	74.9%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	24.3%
Number of juvenile arrests	1,621,391
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	86,814
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.7
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 3,042 2,161 homicides; 683 suicides; 138 accidents; and 60 undetermined	

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

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

**Children's Defense Fund  
25 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 628-8787  
1 (800) 233-1200  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)**