



Children in the States

IDAHO

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Child Population

431,080 children lived in Idaho in 2014; 24 percent were children of color.

- 76 percent were White
- 18 percent were Hispanic
- 1 percent were Black
- 1 percent were Asian
- 3 percent were two or more races
- 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 5 (18.8 percent) of Idaho's children were poor in 2014, a total of 80,025 children.¹

- Idaho ranked 23rd in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 14 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 5 children under age 6 were poor; more than 1 in 3 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Idaho are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic children and nearly 1 in 2 American Indian/Alaska Native children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 7 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Idaho leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 6,126 Idaho public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Idaho and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 21 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 28 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Idaho ranked 21st of 50 states in child food security and 14th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- 25 percent of Idaho children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 77 percent of Idaho children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Idaho 6th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Idaho's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In 2013, 87.6 percent of eligible children participated in Idaho Medicaid Program or Idaho Health Plan, Idaho's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 211,607 Idaho children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Idaho Medicaid Program, and 45,399 in Idaho Health Plan.
- More than 38,000 Idaho children ages 0-17 (8.9 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 10th highest rate of uninsured children among states.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- In 2012, 22,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Idaho Medicaid Program or Idaho Health Plan but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$6,483 – 2.5 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Idaho did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 32 percent of Idaho's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 26 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.

Idaho's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 67 percent of Idaho's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 87 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 80 percent could not compute.
- 84 percent of Idaho public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Idaho 16th among states. 78 percent of Black students and 83 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 83 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 6 percent of Idaho public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Idaho 4th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Idaho, 1,674 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 3.9 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 1,351 Idaho children in foster care.

Too many Idaho children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 11,274 children were arrested in Idaho in 2012 – a rate of 5,966 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 399 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 2 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 19 percent were Hispanic, and 74 percent were White.
- 17 Idaho children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Idaho spent 3.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Idaho ranked 25th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 16 children and teens were killed by guns in Idaho in 2013 – a rate of 3.4 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits