



Children in the States

ILLINOIS

September 2015

Child Population

2,988,474 children lived in Illinois in 2014; 48 percent were children of color.

- 52 percent were White
- 24 percent were Hispanic
- 16 percent were Black
- 5 percent were Asian
- 3 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 5 (20.2 percent) of Illinois's children were poor in 2014, a total of 593,186 children.¹

- Illinois ranked 27th in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 11 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; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Illinois are disproportionately poor.

- More than 2 in 5 Black children, more than 1 in 4 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 10 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 51,000 Illinois public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Illinois and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 21 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 34 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Illinois ranked 19th of 50 states in child food security and 38th in percent of children overweight or obese.
- More than 29 percent of Illinois children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 85 percent of Illinois children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Illinois 27th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

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

- In 2013, 92.2 percent of eligible children participated in Medical Assistance Program or All Kids, Illinois's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 2,352,202 Illinois children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medical Assistance Program, and 337,097 in All Kids.
- More than 125,000 Illinois children ages 0-17 (4.2 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 8th lowest 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, 81,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medical Assistance Program or All Kids 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 \$12,568 – 0.1 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Illinois did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 53 percent of Illinois's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 45 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were served.
- Illinois's state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-14.

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

- In 2013, 66 percent of Illinois's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 61 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 86 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
 - 82 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 75 percent could not compute.
- 82 percent of Illinois public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Illinois 22nd among states. 64 percent of Black students and 79 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 89 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 10 percent of Illinois public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Illinois 29th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Illinois, 29,719 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.8 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 16,777 Illinois children in foster care.

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

- 2,106 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 45 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 21 percent were Hispanic, and 30 percent were White.
- 68 Illinois children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Illinois spent 1.9 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Illinois ranked 34th out of 41 ranked states in child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 148 children and teens were killed by guns in Illinois in 2013—a rate of 4.4 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits