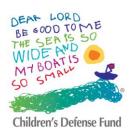
# Children in the States ILLINOIS



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</li>
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander</li>

## **Child Poverty**

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

- Illinois ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

- Nearl 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 19<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 38<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of uninsured children among states.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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