



Children in the States

MINNESOTA

September 2015

Child Population

1,281,826 children lived in Minnesota in 2014; 29 percent were children of color.

- 71 percent were White
- 9 percent were Hispanic
- 8 percent were Black
- 6 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 7 (14.9 percent) of Minnesota's children were poor in 2014, a total of 188,717 children.¹

- Minnesota ranked 8th in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 16 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; more than 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Minnesota are disproportionately poor.

- More than 2 in 5 Black children, nearly 3 in 10 Hispanic children, and more than 2 in 5 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 12 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 12,000 Minnesota 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 Minnesota and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- 16 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 27 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Minnesota ranked 3rd of 50 states in child food security and 11th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 19 percent of Minnesota children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- 84 percent of Minnesota children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Minnesota 23rd of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

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

- In 2011, 84.5 percent of eligible children participated in Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, Minnesota's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 505,264 Minnesota children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medical Assistance, and an additional 3,835 in MinnesotaCare thanks to additional CHIP funding.

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.

- Nearly 72,000 Minnesota children ages 0-17 (5.6 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 21st lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 58,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare 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 cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$13,993 – 33.7 percent more than the annual average tuition and fees at an in-state public four-year college.
- Minnesota had 7,973 families on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 45 percent of Minnesota's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 38 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Minnesota's state-funded preschool program met 9 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2012-2013.

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

- In 2013, 59 percent of Minnesota's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 41 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 79 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 68 percent could not compute.
 - 77 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 66 percent could not compute.
- 88 percent of Minnesota public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Minnesota 7th among states. 66 percent of Black students and 70 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 92 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 5 percent of Minnesota public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Minnesota 3rd among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 19 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Minnesota, 4,183 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 3.3 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 5,929 Minnesota children in foster care.

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

- 37,094 children were arrested in Minnesota in 2012 – a rate of 6,538 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 828 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 37 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 7 percent were Hispanic, and 37 percent were White.
- 13 Minnesota children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Minnesota spent 2.7 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Minnesota ranked 3rd out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 25 children and teens were killed by guns in Minnesota in 2013 – a rate of 1.8 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits