



# Children in the States

## NORTH DAKOTA

September 2015

### Child Population

**168,527 children lived in North Dakota in 2014; 21 percent were children of color.**

- 79 percent were White
- 5 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 1 percent were Asian
- 4 percent were two or more races
- 8 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

### Child Poverty

**More than 1 in 7 (14.8 percent) of North Dakota's children were poor in 2014, a total of 24,132 children.<sup>1</sup>**

- North Dakota ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1 in 13 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; nearly 3 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

**Children of color in North Dakota are disproportionately poor.**

- Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, nearly 3 in 10 Hispanic children and more than 1 in 2 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 North Dakota leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.**

- More than 2,000 North Dakota public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in North Dakota and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 11 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 36 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. North Dakota ranked 1<sup>st</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 45<sup>th</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 15 percent of North Dakota children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 93 percent of North Dakota children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Food Programs in 2014 – ranking North Dakota 48<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

### Child Health

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

- In 2013, 84.3 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or Healthy Steps, North Dakota's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 50,957 North Dakota children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 11,281 in Healthy Steps.

<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>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.

- Nearly 13,000 North Dakota children ages 0-17 (7.9 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 14<sup>th</sup> highest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 4,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or Healthy Steps 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 \$7,871 – 8.3 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in North Dakota.
- North Dakota did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 38 percent of North Dakota’s 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013.

### **North Dakota’s schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.**

- In 2013, 66 percent of North Dakota’s fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 52 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 77 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 65 percent could not compute.
  - 71 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 73 percent could not compute.
- 91 percent of North Dakota public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing North Dakota 4<sup>th</sup> among states. More than 98 percent of Black students and 82 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 93 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 3 percent of North Dakota public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing North Dakota 1<sup>st</sup> among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 5 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

## **Children Facing Special Risks**

### **Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.**

- In North Dakota, 1,517 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.3 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 1,289 North Dakota children in foster care.

### **Too many North Dakota children are involved in the juvenile justice system.**

- 5,515 children were arrested in North Dakota in 2012 – a rate of 8,432 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 156 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 6 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 4 percent were Hispanic, and 54 percent were White.
- No North Dakota children were in adult jails in 2013.
- North Dakota spent 4.5 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

### **Fewer than 10 children and teens were killed by guns in North Dakota in 2013.**

For sources please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)