

Children in the States

OKLAHOMA

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Child Population

952,699 children lived in Oklahoma in 2014; 45 percent were children of color.

- 55 percent were White
- 15 percent were Hispanic
- 8 percent were Black
- 2 percent were Asian
- 9 percent were two or more races
- 10 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 5 (22.4 percent) of Oklahoma's children were poor in 2014, a total of 208,310 children.¹

- Oklahoma ranked 32nd in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 10 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 4 children under age 6 were poor; half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Oklahoma are disproportionately poor.

- More than 2 in 5 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 6 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 23,000 Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- 26 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. Oklahoma ranked 40th of 50 states in child food security and 39th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 29 percent of Oklahoma children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 93 percent of Oklahoma children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Oklahoma 50th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Oklahoma'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, 85.6 percent of eligible children participated in SoonerCare, Oklahoma's expanded Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 558,262 Oklahoma children ages 0-18 were enrolled in SoonerCare due to Medicaid funding, and an additional 147,911 thanks to 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.

- More than 95,000 Oklahoma children ages 0-17 (10.0 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 7th highest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 62,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for SoonerCare 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 \$7,741 – 17.6 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 41 percent of Oklahoma's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 37 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Oklahoma's state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 70 percent of Oklahoma's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 64 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 86 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 86 percent could not compute.
 - 83 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 79 percent could not compute.
- 79 percent of Oklahoma public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Oklahoma 30th among states. 66 percent of Black students and 78 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 80 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 Oklahoma public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Oklahoma 29th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 22 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Oklahoma, 11,575 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 12.2 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 10,620 Oklahoma children in foster care.

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

- 15,599 children were arrested in Oklahoma in 2012 – a rate of 3,801 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 576 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 39 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 9 percent were Hispanic, and 38 percent were White.
- 4 Oklahoma children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Oklahoma spent 2.3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Oklahoma ranked 30th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 43 children and teens were killed by guns in Oklahoma in 2013 – a rate of 4.1 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits