



Children in the States

OREGON

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Child Population

858,022 children lived in Oregon in 2014; 35 percent were children of color.

- 65 percent were White
- 22 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian
- 6 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 (21.6 percent) of Oregon's children were poor in 2014, a total of 181,714 children.¹

- Oregon ranked 30th 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 4 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Oregon are disproportionately poor.

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

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- Nearly 20,000 Oregon 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 Oregon and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 26 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 26 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Oregon ranked 39th of 50 states in child food security and 7th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 34 percent of Oregon children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 82 percent of Oregon children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Oregon 18th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Oregon'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, 88.8 percent of eligible children participated in Oregon Health Plan or Healthy Kids, Oregon's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 401,721 Oregon children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Oregon Health Plan, and 128,061 in Healthy Kids.
- More than 50,000 Oregon children ages 0-17 (5.8 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 25th highest 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, 38,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Oregon Health Plan or Healthy 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 \$11,078 – 28.7 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Oregon.
- Oregon had 1,980 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 40 percent of Oregon's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 31 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Oregon's state-funded preschool program met 9 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 67 percent of Oregon's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 89 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
 - 84 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 80 percent could not compute.
- 78 percent of Oregon public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Oregon 34th among states. 65 percent of Black students and 78 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 78 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 8 percent of Oregon public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Oregon 14th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Oregon, 10,280 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 12.0 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 8,432 Oregon children in foster care.

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

- 19,452 children were arrested in Oregon in 2012 – a rate of 5,004 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 1,098 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 10 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 25 percent were Hispanic, and 58 percent were White.
- No Oregon children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Oregon spent 3.3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Oregon ranked 27th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 35 children and teens were killed by guns in Oregon in 2013 – a rate of 3.7 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits