



Children in the States

SOUTH DAKOTA

September 2015

Child Population

207,959 children lived in South Dakota in 2014; 26 percent were children of color.

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

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 6 (18.0 percent) of South Dakota's children were poor in 2014, a total of 37,127 children.¹

- South Dakota ranked 20th in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 14 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; more than 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in South Dakota are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children and nearly 3 in 5 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 11 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in South Dakota leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- Nearly 2,000 South Dakota 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 South Dakota and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 20 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 27 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. South Dakota ranked 13th of 50 states in child food security and 9th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- 23 percent of South Dakota children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 82 percent of South Dakota children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking South Dakota 19th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of South 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.

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 2013, 86.1 percent of eligible children participated in South Dakota Medicaid or CHIP, South Dakota's Children's Health Insurance Program. In FY2013, a total of 46,948 South Dakota children ages 0-18 were enrolled in South Dakota Medicaid, and 17,632 in CHIP.
- More than 13,000 South Dakota children ages 0-17 (6.3 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 20th highest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, fewer than 6,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for South Dakota Medicaid or CHIP 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 \$5,571 – 27.8 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in South Dakota.
- South Dakota did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 35 percent of South Dakota's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 34 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.

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

- In 2013, 68 percent of South Dakota's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 83 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 86 percent could not compute.
 - 81 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
- 83 percent of South Dakota public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing South Dakota 20th among states. 77 percent of Black students and 77 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 88 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 6 percent of South Dakota public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing South Dakota 4th among states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 13 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In South Dakota, 984 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 4.7 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 1,267 South Dakota children in foster care.

Too many South Dakota children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 6,657 children were arrested in South Dakota in 2012 – a rate of 7,639 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 429 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 3 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 3 percent were Hispanic, and 48 percent were White.
- No South Dakota children were in adult jails in 2013.
- South Dakota spent 3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Fewer than 10 children and teens were killed by guns in South Dakota in 2013.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits