



Children in the States

TEXAS

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Child Population

7,115,614 children lived in Texas in 2014; 67 percent were children of color.

- 33 percent were White
- 49 percent were Hispanic
- 12 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian
- 2 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 4 (24.6 percent) of Texas's children were poor in 2014, a total of 1,728,982 children.¹

- Texas ranked 39th 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; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Texas are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 9 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- More than 101,000 Texas 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 Texas and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 27 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 37 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Texas ranked 45th of 50 states in child food security and 46th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 32 percent of Texas children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 88 percent of Texas children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Texas 35th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Texas'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, 83.7 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or CHIP, Texas's Children's Health Insurance Program. In FY2013, a total of 3,504,386 Texas children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 1,034,613 in CHIP.
- More than 888,000 Texas children ages 0-17 (12.6 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 2nd 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, 516,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for 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 \$8,619 – 1.1 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Texas.
- Texas had 16,470 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 40 percent of Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 33 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Texas's state-funded preschool program met 2 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 72 percent of Texas's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 59 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 82 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 76 percent could not compute.
 - 83 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 70 percent could not compute.
- 82 percent of Texas public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Texas 22nd among states. 73 percent of Black students and 80 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 84 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 9 percent of Texas public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Texas 22nd among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 19 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Texas, 64,603 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.2 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 29,589 Texas children in foster care.

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

- 124,072 children were arrested in Texas in 2012 – a rate of 4,040 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 4,671 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 32 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 48 percent were Hispanic, and 19 percent were White.
- 69 Texas children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Texas spent 2.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Texas ranked 13th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 208 children and teens were killed by guns in Texas in 2013 – a rate of 2.7 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits