



Children in the States

VERMONT

September 2015

Child Population

121,586 children lived in Vermont in 2014; 10 percent were children of color.

- 90 percent were White
- 2 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 2 percent were Asian
- 3 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

Nearly 1 in 6 (15.8 percent) of Vermont's children were poor in 2014, a total of 18,819 children.¹

- Vermont ranked 12th in child poverty among states.²
- Nearly 1 in 13 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 6 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Vermont are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 3 in 10 Black children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 6 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

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

- More than 1,000 Vermont 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 Vermont and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 19 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 25 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Vermont ranked 10th of 50 states in child food security and 3rd in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 27 percent of Vermont children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 71 percent of Vermont children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Vermont 3rd of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Vermont'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, 94.3 percent of eligible children participated in Green Mountain Care or Dr Dynasaur, Vermont's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 72,512 Vermont children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Green Mountain Care, and 7,393 in Dr Dynasaur.
- Nearly 4,000 Vermont children ages 0-17 (3.1 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 3rd lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 3,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Green Mountain Care or Dr Dynasaur but not enrolled.

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.

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 \$10,103 – 27.6 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Vermont.
- Vermont did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 49 percent of Vermont's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 38 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Vermont's state-funded preschool program met 4 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 58 percent of Vermont's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 48 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
- 93 percent of Vermont public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Vermont 1st among states. More than 98 percent of Black students and more than 95 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 91 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 Vermont public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Vermont 14th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 9 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Vermont, 746 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 6.1 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 986 Vermont children in foster care.

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

- 1,256 children were arrested in Vermont in 2012 – a rate of 2,104 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 36 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 92 percent were White.
- 2 Vermont children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Vermont spent 1.7 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

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

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits