

THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN[®]



2010

Children's Defense Fund

CDF Mission Statement

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

Are Our Children Ready to Compete in the Global Arena?

How America Ranks Among Industrialized Countries in Investing in and Protecting Children

1st in gross domestic product
1st in number of billionaires
1st in number of persons incarcerated
1st in health expenditures
1st in military technology
1st in defense expenditures
1st in military weapons exports
21st in 15-year-olds' science scores
21st in low birthweight rates
25th in 15-year-olds' math scores
28th in infant mortality rates
Last in relative child poverty
Last in the gap between the rich and the poor
Last in adolescent birth rates (ages 15 to 19)
Last in protecting our children against gun violence

The United States and Somalia (which has no legally constituted government) are the only two United Nations members that have failed to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

If we compare just Black child well-being in America to child well-being in other nations, according to UNICEF:

- 66 nations have lower infant mortality rates including Sri Lanka.
- Over 100 nations have a lower incidence of low birthweight, including Algeria, Botswana and Panama.
- Black women in the United States are more likely to die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth than women in Uzbekistan.

Moments in America for All Children

Every second a public school student is suspended.*
Every 11 seconds a high school student drops out.*
Every 19 seconds a child is arrested.
Every 19 seconds a baby is born to an unmarried mother.
Every 20 seconds a public school student is corporally punished.*
Every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty.
Every 41 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected.
Every 42 seconds a baby is born without health insurance.
Every minute a baby is born to a teen mother.
Every minute a baby is born at low birthweight.
Every 4 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense.
Every 7 minutes a child is arrested for a violent crime.
Every 18 minutes a baby dies before his or her first birthday.
Every 45 minutes a child or teen dies from an accident.
Every 3 hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm.
Every 5 hours a child or teen commits suicide.
Every 6 hours a child is killed by abuse or neglect.
Every 15 hours a mother dies from complications of childbirth or pregnancy.

* Based on calculations per school day (180 days of seven hours each)



Although minority children are disproportionately affected by poverty, violence, homelessness and other risks, more White children are victims of these risks than any other race.

How Children in America are Faring, by Race/Ethnicity

| | White, non-Hispanic 41,563,836 56.2% of child population | Hispanic 16,092,537 21.8% |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Public school student suspended* | every 3 seconds | every 7 seconds |
| High school student drops out* | every 18 seconds | every 41 seconds |
| Child is arrested | every 29 seconds | n/a |
| Public school student corporally punished* | every 38 seconds | every 4 minutes |
| Baby born to unmarried mother | every 51 seconds | n/a |
| Child confirmed abused or neglected | every 2 minutes | every 3 minutes |
| Baby born into poverty | every 2 minutes | every minute |
| Baby born without health insurance | every 2 minutes | every 2 minutes |
| Baby born to teen mother | every 2 minutes | every 4 minutes |
| Baby born at low birthweight | every 3 minutes | every 7 minutes |
| Child arrested for drug offense | every 5 minutes | n/a |
| Child arrested for a violent crime | every 15 minutes | n/a |
| Baby dies before first birthday | every 29 minutes | n/a |
| Child or teen dies from an accident | every hour | every 4 hours |
| Child or teen killed by firearm | every 5 hours | every 13 hours |
| Child or teen commits suicide | every 6 hours | every 2 days |
| Child killed by abuse or neglect | every 17 hours | every 2 days |
| Mother dies from complications of childbirth or pregnancy | every day | every 3 days |

* Based on 180 school days a year

How Children in America are Faring, by Race/Ethnicity

| Black 11,222,543 15.2% | Asian, Pacific Islander 3,255,304 4.4% | American Indian, Alaska Native 3,255,304 1.3% |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| every 4 seconds | every minute | every 2 minutes |
| every 39 seconds | every 4 minutes | n/a |
| every minute | every 21 minutes | every 27 minutes |
| every 57 seconds | every 3 hours | every 14 minutes |
| every minute | every 13 minutes | every 17 minutes |
| every 3 minutes | every hour | every hour |
| every 2 minutes | every 18 minutes | every 31 minutes |
| every 4 minutes | n/a | n/a |
| every 5 minutes | every hour | every hour |
| every 6 minutes | n/a | n/a |
| every 14 minutes | every 7 hours | every 8 hours |
| every 14 minutes | every 11 hours | every 17 hours |
| every hour | n/a | n/a |
| every 4 hours | every day | every day |
| every 6 hours | every 5 days | every 8 days |
| every 2 days | every 6 days | every 5 days |
| every day | n/a | n/a |
| every 1.5 days | n/a | n/a |

Each day in America

| | |
|--------|--|
| 2 | mothers die in childbirth. |
| 4 | children are killed by abuse or neglect. |
| 5 | children or teens commit suicide. |
| 9 | children or teens are killed by firearms. |
| 32 | children or teens die from accidents. |
| 78 | babies die before their first birthdays. |
| 202 | children are arrested for violent crime. |
| 377 | children are arrested for drug offenses. |
| 964 | babies are born at low birthweight. |
| 1,210 | babies are born to teen mothers. |
| 1,240 | public school students are corporally punished.* |
| 2,060 | babies are born without health insurance. |
| 2,175 | children are confirmed as abused or neglected. |
| 2,222 | high school students drop out.* |
| 2,692 | babies are born into poverty. |
| 4,435 | children are arrested. |
| 4,498 | babies are born to unmarried mothers. |
| 18,493 | public school students are suspended. |

* Based on 180 school days a year

Each day in America for White children

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | mother dies in childbirth. |
| 1 | child is killed by abuse or neglect. |
| 4 | children or teens commit suicide. |
| 4 | children or teens are killed by firearms. |
| 25 | children or teens die from accidents. |
| 50 | babies die before their first birthdays. |
| 94 | children are arrested for violent crimes. |
| 266 | children are arrested for drug offenses. |
| 463 | babies are born at low birthweight. |
| 663 | public school students are corporally punished.* |
| 696 | babies are born without health insurance. |
| 794 | babies are born into poverty. |
| 855 | babies are born to teen mothers. |
| 921 | children are confirmed as abused or neglected. |
| 1,406 | high school students drop out.* |
| 1,684 | babies are born to unmarried mothers. |
| 2,934 | children are arrested. |
| 7,236 | public school students are suspended.* |

* Based on 180 school days a year

Each day in America for Latino children

| | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | children or teens are killed by firearms. |
| 6 | children or teens die from accidents. |
| 103 | public school students are corporally punished.* |
| 199 | babies are born at low birthweight. |
| 406 | babies are born to teen mothers. |
| 416 | children are confirmed as abused or neglected. |
| 617 | high school students drop out.* |
| 936 | babies are born without health insurance. |
| 1,008 | babies are born into poverty. |
| 1,420 | babies are born to unmarried mothers. |
| 3,726 | public school students are suspended.* |

* Based on 180 school days a year

Each day in America for Black children

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | child is killed by abuse or neglect. |
| 4 | children or teens are killed by firearms. |
| 5 | children or teens die from accidents. |
| 24 | babies die before their first birthdays. |
| 103 | children are arrested for drug offenses. |
| 104 | children are arrested for violent crimes. |
| 236 | babies are born at low birthweight. |
| 311 | babies are born to teen mothers. |
| 329 | babies are born without health insurance. |
| 434 | children are confirmed as abused or neglected. |
| 442 | public school students are corporally punished.* |
| 650 | high school students drop out.* |
| 761 | babies are born into poverty. |
| 1,282 | babies are born to unmarried mothers. |
| 1,363 | children are arrested. |
| 6,916 | public school students are suspended. |

* Based on 180 school days a year

Each day in America for Asian and Pacific Islander children

- 1 child is arrested for a violent crime.
- 2 public school students are corporally punished.*
- 4 children are arrested for drug offenses.
- 22 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 22 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 67 children are arrested.
- 81 babies are born into poverty.
- 94 high school students drop out.*
- 109 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 351 public school students are suspended.

* Based on 180 school days a year

Each day in America for American Indian and Alaska Native children

- 1 child is arrested for a violent crime.
- 3 children are arrested for drug offenses.
- 23 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 24 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 29 public school students are corporally punished.*
- 47 babies are born into poverty.
- 52 children are arrested.
- 84 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 264 public school students are suspended.

* Based on 180 school days a year