

January 27, 2014

The State of America's Children 2014 Best and Worst States



Percent Poor Children, 2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. North Dakota	50. Mississippi
2. Maryland	49. New Mexico
3. Alaska	48. Arkansas
4. Minnesota	47. Louisiana
5. Connecticut	46. Alabama
6. Utah	45. Georgia
7. Virginia	44. Arizona
8. Massachusetts*	43. South Carolina
8. New Jersey*	42. Kentucky
10. Vermont	41. North Carolina

Percent Extremely Poor Children, 2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Alaska	50. Mississippi
2. New Hampshire	49. New Mexico
3. Minnesota*	48. Alabama
3. North Dakota*	47. West Virginia
5. Iowa*	46. Louisiana
5. Utah*	44. Georgia*
7. Maryland*	44. South Carolina*
7. Virginia*	43. Arkansas
9. Connecticut*	42. Arizona
9. Kansas*	41. Kentucky

Percent Poor Among Children Under Age 6, 2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. North Dakota	50. Mississippi
2. Alaska	49. New Mexico
3. Maryland	48. Alabama
4. Utah	47. South Carolina
5. Connecticut	46. Arkansas
6. Minnesota	45. Georgia
7. Virginia	44. Kentucky
8. Massachusetts	43. Louisiana
9. Hawaii	42. Arizona
10. New Jersey	41. North Carolina

Percent Extremely Poor Among Children Under Age 6, 2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Alaska	50. Mississippi
2. Utah	49. Alabama
3. Minnesota	48. West Virginia
4. Vermont	46. New Mexico*
5. Maryland	46. South Carolina*
6. Connecticut*	45. Louisiana
6. North Dakota*	44. Georgia
8. Massachusetts*	43. Kentucky
8. Virginia*	42. Ohio
10. Montana	41. Arkansas

Median Income of Families with Children, 2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. New Jersey	50. Mississippi
2. Connecticut	49. New Mexico
3. Massachusetts	48. Arkansas
4. Maryland	47. South Carolina
5. New Hampshire	46. Nevada
6. Minnesota	45. Florida
7. Virginia	44. Alabama

Summer Food Service Program Participation as a Percent of Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Participation, FY2012

<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. New York	50. Oklahoma
2. Wisconsin	49. California
3. Delaware	48. Nevada
4. Vermont	47. Arizona
5. New Mexico	46. Iowa
6. Maryland	45. Connecticut
7. Idaho	44. Colorado

- 8. Alaska
- 9. Hawaii
- 10. North Dakota

- 43. Oklahoma
- 42. Idaho
- 41. Tennessee

- 8. Oregon
- 9. Pennsylvania
- 10. Massachusetts

- 43. Tennessee
- 42. Alabama
- 41. North Dakota

Percent Children Living in Food Insecure Households, 2011

10 Best

- 1. North Dakota
- 2. New Hampshire
- 3. Massachusetts*
- 3. Virginia*
- 5. Minnesota
- 6. Wyoming
- 7. Delaware*
- 7. South Dakota*
- 9. Maryland*
- 9. New Jersey*

10 Worst

- 50. New Mexico
- 49. Arizona
- 48. Oregon
- 47. Georgia
- 45. Arkansas*
- 45. Florida*
- 44. Nevada
- 43. Texas
- 41. Mississippi*
- 41. South Carolina*

Percent Overweight and Obese (Ages 10-17), 2011-2012

10 Best

- 1. Utah
- 2. Colorado
- 3. Vermont
- 4. New Jersey
- 5. New Hampshire
- 6. Washington
- 7. Oregon*
- 7. Pennsylvania*
- 9. South Dakota
- 10. Wyoming

10 Worst

- 50. Louisiana
- 49. Mississippi
- 48. South Carolina
- 47. Arizona
- 46. Texas
- 45. North Dakota
- 44. Kentucky
- 42. Alabama*
- 42. Georgia*
- 41. Tennessee

Percent Uninsured (Ages 0-17), 2012

10 Best

- 1. Massachusetts
- 2. Vermont
- 3. Illinois
- 4. Delaware*
- 4. Hawaii*
- 6. Connecticut*
- 6. Maryland*
- 8. New York*
- 8. West Virginia*
- 10. Iowa*
- 10. Michigan*
- 10. New Hampshire*

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Alaska
- 48. Arizona
- 47. Texas
- 46. Montana
- 45. Florida
- 43.. Oklahoma*
- 43. Utah*
- 42. Wyoming
- 40. Colorado*
- 40. Georgia*

Gun Deaths

per 100,000 Children and Teens, 2010

10 Best

- 1. Connecticut
- 2. Oregon
- 3. Utah
- 4. Massachusetts
- 5. Minnesota
- 6. Iowa
- 7. Nebraska
- 8. New Jersey
- 9. New York
- 10. West Virginia

10 Worst¹

- 42. Alaska
- 41. Louisiana
- 40. Montana
- 39. Mississippi
- 38. Missouri
- 37. New Mexico
- 36. Alabama
- 35. Oklahoma
- 34. Delaware
- 33. Pennsylvania

¹ States were ranked 1 to 42 because 8 states could not be ranked due to data being suppressed to protect confidentiality.

Percent of 3- and 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in Preschool, 2009-2011

10 Best

- 1. New Jersey
- 2. Connecticut
- 3. Massachusetts
- 4. New York
- 5. Illinois
- 6. Hawaii*

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Arizona
- 47. Alaska*
- 47. North Dakota*
- 46. Idaho
- 45. West Virginia

On-Time High School Graduation Rates Among Public School Students, School Year 2009-2010

10 Best

- 1. Vermont
- 2. Wisconsin
- 3. North Dakota
- 4. Minnesota
- 5. Iowa
- 6. New Jersey

10 Worst

- 50. Nevada
- 49. Mississippi
- 48. New Mexico
- 47. South Carolina
- 46. Louisiana
- 45. Georgia

6. Louisiana*	44. New Mexico	7. New Hampshire	44. Florida
6. New Hampshire*	37. Indiana*	8. Kansas	43. Alabama
9. Maryland	37. Oregon*	9. Pennsylvania	42. Arizona
10. Mississippi	37. South Dakota*	10. Idaho	41. Arkansas
	37. Tennessee*		
	37. Utah*		
	37. Wisconsin*		
	37. Wyoming*		

Percent of Fourth Grade Public School Students Performing Below Grade Level, 2013

In Reading		In Math	
<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>	<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Massachusetts	50. Mississippi	1. Minnesota	50. Mississippi
2. Maryland	49. New Mexico	2. New Hampshire	49. Louisiana
3. New Hampshire	48. Louisiana	3. Massachusetts	48. Alabama
4. Virginia	47. California	4. Indiana	47. New Mexico
5. Connecticut	46. West Virginia	5. Vermont	46. California
6. Vermont	45. Nevada	6. Colorado	45. Nevada
7. New Jersey	44. Alaska	7. New Jersey	44. South Carolina
8. Minnesota	43. Arizona	8. Washington	43. West Virginia
9. Colorado	42. South Carolina	9. North Dakota	42. Oklahoma
10. Pennsylvania	41. Texas	10. Ohio	41. Alaska

Percent of Eighth Grade Public School Students Performing Below Grade Level, 2013

In Reading		In Math	
<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>	<u>10 Best</u>	<u>10 Worst</u>
1. Massachusetts	50. Mississippi	1. Massachusetts	50. Alabama
2. New Jersey	49. New Mexico	2. New Jersey	49. Louisiana
3. Connecticut	48. Louisiana	3. Minnesota	48. Mississippi
4. Vermont	47. Alabama	4. Vermont	47. New Mexico
5. New Hampshire	46. West Virginia	5. New Hampshire	46. West Virginia
6. Maryland	45. Arizona	6. Colorado	45. Oklahoma
7. Pennsylvania	44. Hawaii	7. Washington	44. Tennessee
8. Washington	43. Oklahoma	8. Pennsylvania	43. California
9. Minnesota	42. California	9. North Dakota	42. Arkansas
10. Montana	41. South Carolina	10. Kansas	41. Nevada

*Indicates ties.

For sources and additional data please refer to *The 2014 State of America's Children* report available at www.childrendefense.org/SOAC.