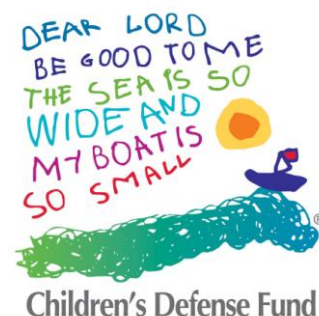


Children's Defense Fund

Children in Louisiana



November 2011

1,123,386 children live in Louisiana:
 7,804 are American Indian/Alaska Native
 17,694 are Asian/Pacific Islander
 24,189 are two or more races
 50,029 are Hispanic
 425,858 are Black
 605,720 are White, non-Hispanic

In Louisiana:

A child is abused or neglected every 58 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 14 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 4 days.

Louisiana Ranks:*

24th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 50th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi
 48th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Louisiana

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	299,779(27.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	134,938(12.3%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	24,590
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$240

Child Health in Louisiana

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	131,000(11.0%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	170,082**
CHIP eligibility: 250 percent of federal poverty (\$55,125 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	580,686**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	88.5%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	55.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	25.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	23.1%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

Child Hunger in Louisiana

Number of children who receive food stamps	342,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	72%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	408,059
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	25,912
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	150,943

Early Childhood Development in Louisiana

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	66.4%
Number of children served by Head Start	24,234
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	45,300
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,400
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	21.9%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	47.8%

Education in Louisiana

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$10,422
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$8,937
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	77%
unable to do math at grade level	74%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	78%
unable to do math at grade level	78%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	26,386

Child Welfare in Louisiana

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	9,063
Number of children in foster care	4,453
Number of children adopted from foster care	641
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	62,668

Youth at Risk in Louisiana

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	10.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	67.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	23.8%
Number of juvenile arrests	16,582
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,350
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	1.17
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 76 64 homicides and 12 suicides	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2011. For data sources, please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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