



Children in Missouri

1,407,342 children live in Missouri

- A child in Missouri is born into poverty every 41 minutes**
- A child in Missouri is abused or neglected every 54 minutes**
- A child in Missouri dies before his or her first birthday every 16 hours**
- A child or teen in Missouri is killed by gunfire every 4 days**

Missouri Rankings*

- Missouri ranks 8th among states in the percent of babies born to mothers who received early prenatal care.
 - Missouri ranks 27th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 - Missouri ranks 30th among states in the percent of children who are poor.
 - Missouri ranks 31st among states in infant mortality.
 - Missouri ranks 34th among states in per pupil expenditures.
- [*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children.]

Child Poverty in Missouri

Number of poor children	226,858
Percent of children who are poor	16.6%
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	106,338
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$292

Child Hunger in Missouri

Number of children who receive food stamps	248,670
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	79%
Number of children in School Lunch Program	622,416
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)	128,029

Early Childhood Development in Missouri

Percent of children under age six with all parents in the labor force	63.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	17,646
Number of children served by the Child Care and Development Block Grant	35,900
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$4,784

Child Welfare in Missouri

Number of children who were victims of abuse and neglect	9,810
Number of children in foster care	13,052
Number of children adopted from foster care	1,542
Number of grandparents raising their grandchildren	52,054

Education in Missouri

Amount spent per pupil in public school	\$6,187
Percent of fourth graders reading below grade level	66%
Percent of fourth graders below grade level in math	70%
Average class size in public elementary schools	20.7
Average class size in public secondary schools	21.0

Child Health in Missouri

Number of children without health insurance	89,000
Percent of children without health insurance	6.0%
Percent of two-year-olds who are not fully immunized	27.0%

Youth At Risk in Missouri

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates	10.2%
High school completion rate	92.6%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds who are unemployed	17.4%
Number of juveniles arrested	38,813
Number of children and teens in juvenile or adult correctional facilities	2,806
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 55 homicides; 29 suicides; 4 accidents; and 4 undetermined	92

GET INVOLVED: CDF and our partners in Missouri offer a variety of projects, which individuals, organizations and congregations can initiate at the local level to improve the lives of children. CDF provides training and/or ongoing technical assistance for many of these projects.

The Dodd-Miller comprehensive **Act to Leave No Child Behind** (S. 448/H.R. 936) will help provide all children 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. For more information on how the Act to Leave No Child Behind will help children in your state, and how your Representatives and Senators vote for children, please visit www.cdfactioncouncil.org.

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available.

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

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