# Children in the States TEXAS

September 2015

# **Child Population**

7,115,614 children lived in Texas in 2014; 67 percent were children of color.

- 33 percent were White
- 49 percent were Hispanic
- 12 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian

- 2 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native</li>
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander</li>

# Child Poverty

### Nearly 1 in 4 (24.6 percent) of Texas's children were poor in 2014, a total of 1,728,982 children.<sup>1</sup>

- Texas ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1 in 10 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 4 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

#### Children of color in Texas are disproportionately poor.

 Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 9 White children.

# **Child Hunger and Homelessness**

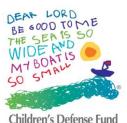
### Child poverty in Texas leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 101,000 Texas 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 Texas and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 27 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. Nearly 37 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Texas ranked 45<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 46<sup>th</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 32 percent of Texas children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 88 percent of Texas children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Texas 35<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

# Child Health

# Although the majority of Texas'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, 83.7 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or CHIP, Texas's Children's Health Insurance Program. In FY2013, a total of 3,504,386 Texas children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 1,034,613 in CHIP.
- More than 888,000 Texas children ages 0-17 (12.6 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of uninsured children among states.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> is the worst for children.

• In 2012, 516,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but not enrolled.

# 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 \$8,619 1.1 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Texas.
- Texas had 16,470 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 40 percent of Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 33 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Texas's state-funded preschool program met 2 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 72 percent of Texas's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 59 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 82 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 76 percent could not compute.
  - 83 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 70 percent could not compute.
- 82 percent of Texas public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Texas 22<sup>nd</sup> among states. 73 percent of Black students and 80 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 84 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 9 percent of Texas public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Texas 22<sup>nd</sup> among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 19 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

# **Children Facing Special Risks**

#### Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Texas, 64,603 children were abused or neglected in 2013 9.2 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 29,589 Texas children in foster care.

### Too many Texas children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 124,072 children were arrested in Texas in 2012 a rate of 4,040 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 4,671 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 32 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 48 percent were Hispanic, and 19 percent were White.
- 69 Texas children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Texas spent 2.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

### Texas ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

• A total of 208 children and teens were killed by guns in Texas in 2013 – a rate of 2.7 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits