



Children in the States

DELAWARE

September 2015

Child Population

204,247 children lived in Delaware in 2014; 49 percent were children of color.

- 51 percent were White
- 15 percent were Hispanic
- 25 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 6 (17.7 percent) of Delaware's children were poor in 2014, a total of 35,491 children.¹

- Delaware ranked 18th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 13 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. More than 1 in 5 children under age 6 were poor; more than 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Delaware are disproportionately poor.

- Nearly 3 in 10 Black children and nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 10 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Delaware leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- Nearly 4,000 Delaware public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Delaware and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 20 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. 32 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Delaware ranked 12th of 50 states in child food security and 32nd in percent of children overweight and obese.
- More than 34 percent of Delaware children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- More than 81 percent of Delaware children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Delaware 16th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Delaware'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 FY2013, 92.1 percent of eligible children participated in Delaware Medical Assistance Program or Healthy Children, Delaware's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 96,916 Delaware children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Delaware Medical Assistance Program, and 13,180 in Healthy Children.

¹ 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.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- More than 9,000 Delaware children ages 0-17 (4.5 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 12th lowest uninsured rate among states.
- In 2012, 5,000 children ages 0-18 were eligible for Delaware Medical Assistance Program or Healthy Children 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 \$9,058 – 19.6 percent less than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Delaware did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 46 percent of Delaware’s 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 36 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Delaware’s state-funded preschool program met 8 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Delaware’s schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 62 percent of Delaware’s fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 58 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 77 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 79 percent could not compute.
 - 75 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 73 percent could not compute.
- 77 percent of Delaware public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Delaware 39th among states. 69 percent of Black students and 70 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 81 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 15 percent of Delaware public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Delaware 44th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 26 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Delaware, 1,915 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 9.4 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 704 Delaware children in foster care.

Too many Delaware children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 4,598 children were arrested in Delaware in 2012 – a rate of 5,018 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 180 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 72 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 7 percent were Hispanic, and 22 percent were White.
- 7 Delaware children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Delaware spent 2.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Delaware ranked 33rd out of 41 states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 10 children and teens were killed by guns in Delaware in 2013 – a rate of 4.3* out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

*Rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.