# Children in the States OREGON



September 2015

# **Child Population**

858,022 children lived in Oregon in 2014; 35 percent were children of color.

- 65 percent were White
- 22 percent were Hispanic
- 2 percent were Black
- 4 percent were Asian

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

# **Child Poverty**

More than 1 in 5 (21.6 percent) of Oregon's children were poor in 2014, a total of 181,714 children.<sup>1</sup>

- Oregon ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 1 in 11 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 Oregon are disproportionately poor.

• Nearly 1 in 2 Black children, nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and more than 2 in 5 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 6 White children.

# **Child Hunger and Homelessness**

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

- Nearly 20,000 Oregon public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, nearly 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent twobedroom apartment in Oregon and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 26 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 26 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Oregon ranked 39<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 7<sup>th</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 34 percent of Oregon children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 82 percent of Oregon children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Oregon 18<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

### **Child Health**

Although the majority of Oregon'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, 88.8 percent of eligible children participated in Oregon Health Plan or Healthy Kids, Oregon's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 401,721 Oregon children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Oregon Health Plan, and 128,061 in Healthy Kids.
- More than 50,000 Oregon children ages 0-17 (5.8 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 25<sup>th</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.

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, 38,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Oregon Health Plan or Healthy Kids 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 \$11,078 28.7 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Oregon.
- Oregon had 1,980 children on a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 40 percent of Oregon's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 31 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Oregon's state-funded preschool program met 9 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

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

- In 2013, 67 percent of Oregon's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 89 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 84 percent could not compute.
  - 84 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 80 percent could not compute.
- 78 percent of Oregon public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Oregon 34<sup>th</sup> among states. 65 percent of Black students and 78 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 78 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 8 percent of Oregon public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Oregon 14<sup>th</sup> among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

### **Children Facing Special Risks**

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

- In Oregon, 10,280 children were abused or neglected in 2013 12.0 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 8,432 Oregon children in foster care.

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

- 19,452 children were arrested in Oregon in 2012 a rate of 5,004 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 1,098 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 10 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 25 percent were Hispanic, and 58 percent were White.
- No Oregon children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Oregon spent 3.3 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

# Oregon ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

A total of 35 children and teens were killed by guns in Oregon in 2013 – a rate of 3.7 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits