



## THE STATE OF **Washington's Children 2012**

### WHO WE ARE

KIDS COUNT in Washington is a partnership between Children's Alliance and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center to help improve young lives.

Together, we gather and analyze the best emerging data on how kids are doing in our state, and then turn that information into action on issues like poverty, hunger, health care, education and racial equity.

KIDS COUNT in Washington understands that information is power. We seek a dialogue between what the data says and what communities know about kids. We put real life behind real numbers by pairing hard data with personal stories to give policymakers and the public the information they need to create brighter futures for our children.

KIDS COUNT in Washington data is highly credible, supported by the Children's Alliance's 30-year record of policy advocacy and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center's reputation for independent analysis.

Hundreds of other indicators on child and family well-being are available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wa>.

# ECONOMIC SECURITY

The recession has taken a heavy toll on children in our state. The number of children living in low-income families rose for the second straight year; now, nearly 4 out of 10 kids are living in families that struggle to afford food, health care, housing and child care. Between 2007 and 2010, the unemployment rate among parents more than doubled; at last count, 1 in 10 children had at least one unemployed parent. A growing body of evidence is showing that even a short period of economic hardship has lasting developmental outcomes for a household's young members.

For children of color, who make up a growing share of our state's youngest residents, tough times pose a particular threat. They are more likely to be born into families that can't afford the basics, and less likely to be well served by public services intended to protect kids from economic shock. Nearly every indicator of child well-being shows troubling disparities by race. These disparities indicate the need for greater public investments in early childhood education, food, health care and income supports that ensure that all kids thrive.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN (UNDER 18) 1,581,354

Number of Children Living in Low Income Families (Less than 200% FPL) 610,804

Percent of Children Living in Low Income Families (Less than 200% FPL) 39%

Deep Poverty (Less than 50% FPL) 8%

Poverty (50% to 99% FPL) 10%

Near Poverty (100% to 199% FPL) 21%

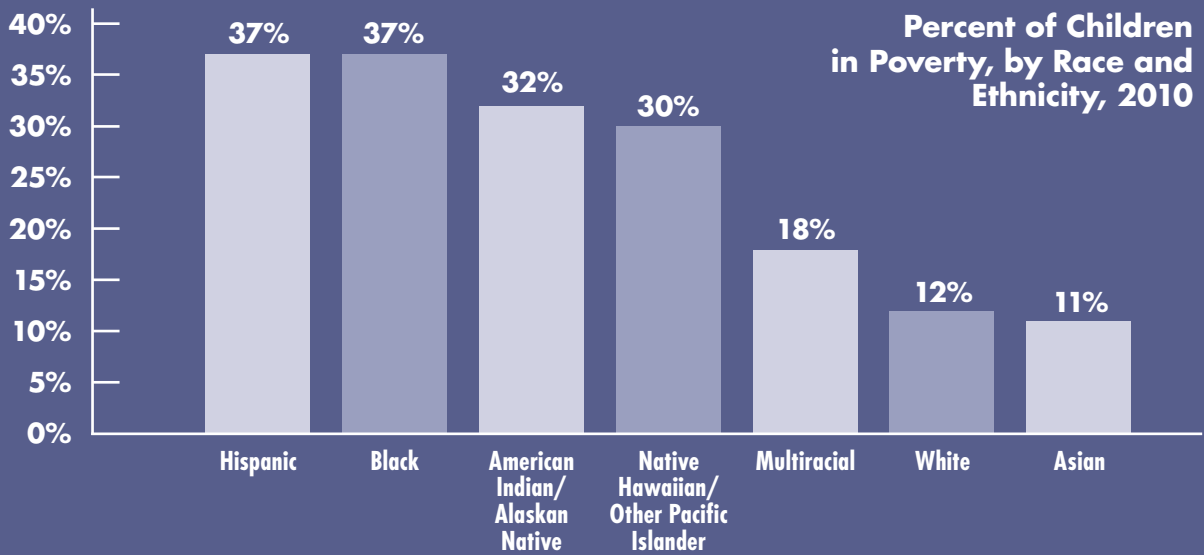
Number of Children Affected by Foreclosure since 2007 68,000

Number of Children who are Food Insecure 382,860

Food Insecurity among Children 25%

Food Insecurity, All Ages 15%

Number of Children with at least One Unemployed Parent 169,000



# EDUCATION

From infancy through high school, children’s educational outcomes are dependent on the quality of their learning experience. Early childhood education, in particular, has been shown to have a significant positive effect on future success, though too few children get high-quality early learning opportunities. Nearly one in five students do not graduate on time.

## EARLY EDUCATION

Percent of 3-4 Year Olds Attending Preschool	40%
Percent of Children Age 1 to 5 Read to Everyday	61%
Percent of Children Age 1 to 5 Sung to or Told Stories Everyday	64%

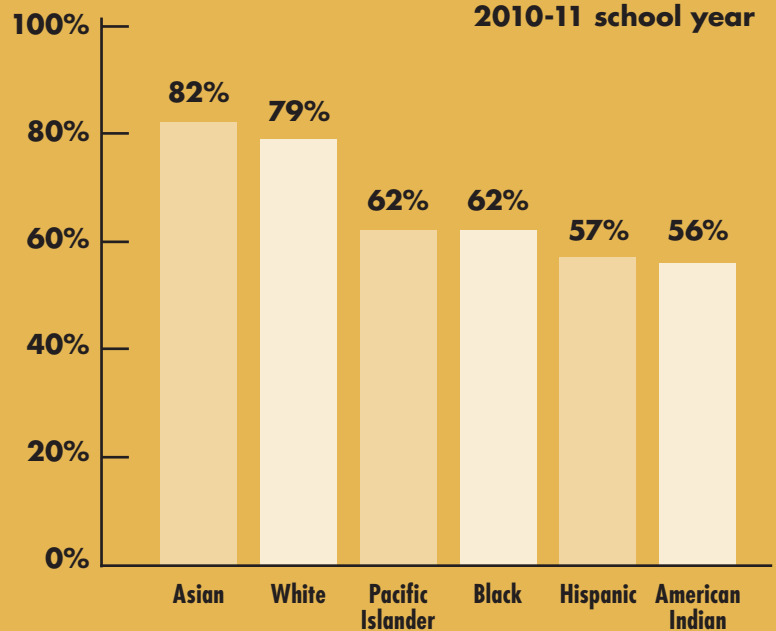
## K-12

Percent of Students Meeting Reading Standards on Statewide Test	
3rd Grade	73%
8th Grade	69%
Percent of Students Meeting Math Standards on Statewide Test	
3rd Grade	62%
8th Grade	50%
Percent of Students Meeting Writing Standards on Statewide Test	
4th Grade	61%
10th Grade	86%
Percent of Teens Not in School, Not Working	8%
Cohort Drop-Out Rate	18%

## HIGHER EDUCATION

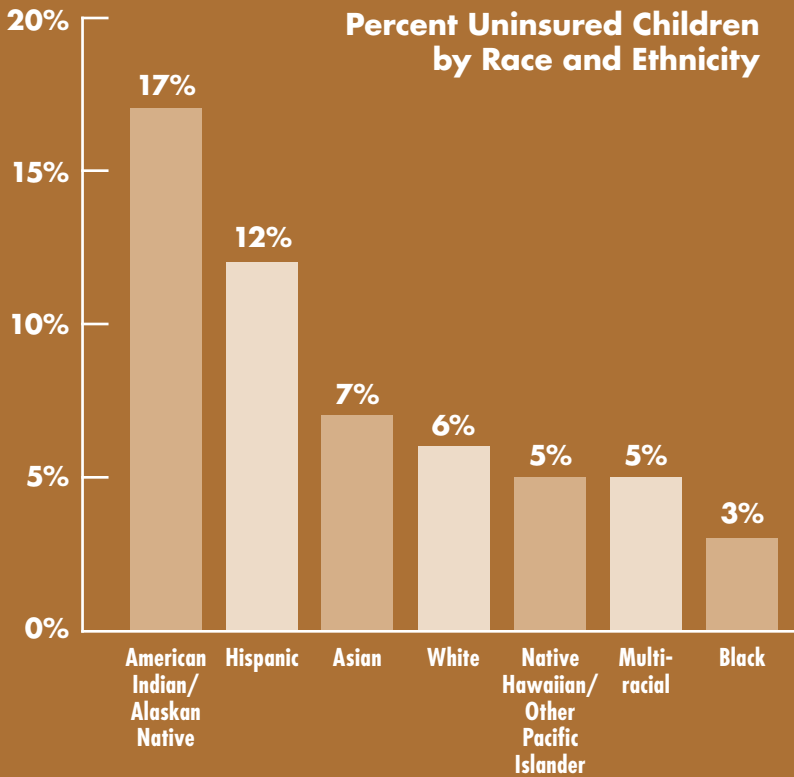
Percent of Students Immediately Enrolling in Postsecondary Education	64%
Percent of Students Taking Remedial Math or Composition Course at Washington Community Colleges or Universities	40%
Percent of Individuals 25 and Older	31%

**Percent of Third Graders Meeting Standards on Statewide Reading Test, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010-11 school year**



# HEALTH

Physical, social, and emotional health are critical to a child’s long-term development. Access to health care is critical to ensuring health, but tens of thousands of children still lack health coverage in Washington, with higher rates in some communities of color. Low income children and kids of color are more likely to lack regular dental care and suffer from preventable forms of dental disease.



NUMBER OF UNINSURED CHILDREN 101,614

Percent of Children with No Health Insurance 6%

Percent of Students Reporting No Preventive Doctor Visit in Past Year

8th Grade	38%
10th Grade	39%
12th Grade	42%

INFANT HEALTH

Percent Low Birthweight Babies	6%
Infant Mortality (3-year average per 1,000 live births)	5.0

ADOLESCENT PHYSICAL HEALTH

Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting they are Overweight or Obese	24%
Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting they Have Asthma	19%

ADOLESCENT EMOTIONAL HEALTH

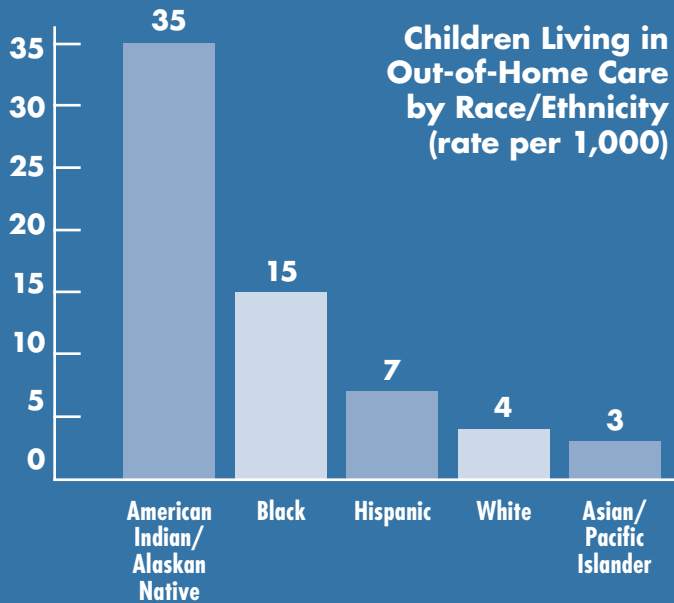
Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting Depressive Symptoms in Last Year	30%
Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting Suicidal Thoughts in Last Year	18%

ORAL HEALTH

Percent of 3rd graders who have Experienced Tooth Decay	58%
Living in Moderate- to High-Income Families	47%
Living in Low-Income Families	68%
White Children	54%
Children of Color	64%

# SAFETY

Safe, secure environments are critical to promoting a child's physical, social, and emotional development. Compared to their peers, children who do not feel safe at home, at school, or in their communities are more likely to have poor educational and health outcomes, and experience low self-esteem and emotional issues. Nearly one of every three sixth graders reports being bullied, and more than 1 in 10 students in each grade report they do not feel safe at school.



## CHILD WELFARE

Percent of Children Served by Child Protective Services	3.6%
Children Living in Out-of-Home Care (rate per 1,000)	6.2

## BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

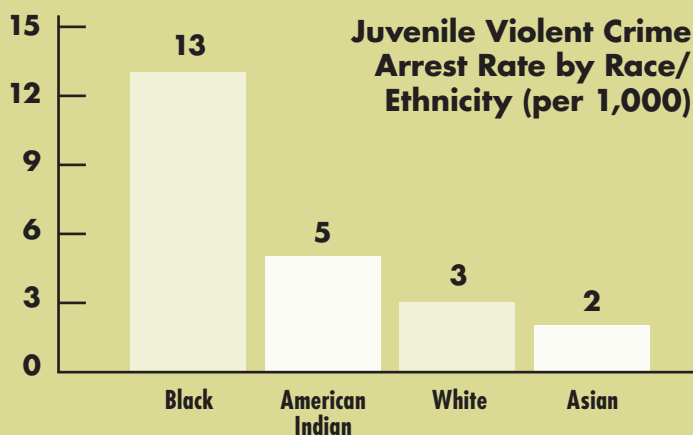
Percent of Students Reporting they were Bullied in School Last Year	
6th Grade	30%
8th Grade	30%
10th Grade	24%
12th Grade	17%
Percent of Students Reporting they do not Feel Safe at School	
6th Grade	13%
8th Grade	17%
10th Grade	15%
12th Grade	12%

## DEATHS

Child Mortality Rate by Age Group (rate per 100,000)	
1 to 14 year-olds	13
15 to 19 year-olds	47
Percent Mortality due to Unintentional Injury	
1 to 14 year-olds	12%
15 to 19 year-olds	44%
Percent Mortality due to Motor Vehicle Accidents	
1 to 14 year-olds	3%
15 to 19 year-olds	22%

# RISK BEHAVIOR

Participating in risk behaviors can be harmful to a child's physical and emotional health and development. Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and cigarettes increases by grade through the school-age years.



## Percent of Students Reporting they Used Illegal Drugs in Last 30 Days

8th Grade	10%
10th Grade	21%

## Percent of Students Reporting they Used Alcohol in Last 30 Days

8th Grade	14%
10th Grade	28%

## Percent of Students Reporting they Smoked Cigarettes in Last 30 Days

8th Grade	7%
10th Grade	13%

Teen Birth Rate (rate per 1,000 15 to 19 year-olds)	30
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Total Juvenile Crime Rate (rate per 1,000 10 to 17 year-olds)	47
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# SOURCE NOTES

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Percent of Children Living in Deep Poverty:* American Community Survey 2010

*Percent of Children Living in Poverty:* American Community Survey 2010

*Percent of Children Living Near Poverty:* American Community Survey 2010

*Percent of Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity:* American Community Survey 2010

*Child Population Data:* Washington State Office of Financial Management; 2010 Census Summary File 1 [Washington State]

*Percent of Children in Food Insecure Households:* Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2011

*Number of Children with at least One Unemployed Parent:* Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch of Washington State Employment Security Department

## EDUCATION

### Early Education

*Percent of 3-4 Year Olds Attending Preschool:* American Community Survey 2010

*Percent of Children Age 1-5 Read to:* National Survey of Children's Health 2007

*Percent of Children Sung to or Told Stories:* National Survey of Children's Health 2007

### K-12

*Percent of 3rd Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Reading:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of 3rd Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Math:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of 3rd Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Writing:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of 8th Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Reading:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of 8th Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Math:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of 8th Graders Meeting Standards on WASL-Writing:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Percent of Teens Not in School, Not Working:* American Community Survey 2010

*Cohort Drop-Out Rate:* Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Higher Education

*Percent of Students Immediately Enrolling in Postsecondary Education:* State of Washington Education Research & Data Center P-20 Education Data Project

*Percent of Students Taking Remedial Math or Composition Course at Washington Community Colleges or Universities:* State of Washington Education Research & Data Center P-20 Education Data Project

*Percent of Individuals 25+ with a BA or Higher:* American Community Survey 2009

## HEALTH

*Uninsured Children:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010, Annual Social and Economic Supplements

*Percent Reporting No Doctor Visit:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

### Infant Health

*Percent Low Birthweight:* Washington State Department of Health

*Infant Mortality Rate:* Washington State Department of Health

### Adolescent Physical Health

*Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting they are Overweight or Obese:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent Diagnosed with Asthma:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

### Adolescent Emotional Health

*Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting Depressive Symptoms in Last Year:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 10th Grade Students Reporting Suicidal Thoughts in Last Year:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

### Oral Health

*Percent of 3rd Graders who have Experienced Tooth Decay:* Smile Survey 2010, Washington State Department of Health

## SAFETY

### Child Welfare

*Percent of Children Served by Child Protective Services:* Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

*Children Living in Out-of-Home Care:* Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

### Bullying and Harassment

*Percent of Children who were Bullied at School in the Last Year:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of Students who do not Feel Safe at School:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

### Deaths

*Child Mortality by Age Group:* Washington State Department of Health

*Percent Mortality due to Unintentional Injury:* Washington State Department of Health

*Percent Mortality due to Motor Vehicle Accidents:* Washington State Department of Health

## RISK BEHAVIOR

*Percent of 8th Graders Who Used Illegal Drugs in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 10th Graders Who Used Illegal Drugs in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 8th Graders Who Drank Alcohol in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 10th Graders Who Drank Alcohol in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 8th Graders Who Smoked Cigarettes in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Percent of 10th Graders Who Smoked Cigarettes in Last 30 Days:* Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State Department of Health

*Teen Birth Rate:* Washington State Department of Health

*Total Juvenile Crime Rate:* Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

*Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate:* Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

## A NOTE ABOUT THIS DATA

To truly understand how all of Washington's kids are faring, we need accurate information. But state and federal data doesn't always deliver. For example, Asian Americans trace their ancestry to more than 20 countries, each with different immigrant experiences; and data about Pacific Islander Americans is often aggregated with data about Asian Americans. The different experiences of thousands of Washington children are hard to describe accurately in such broad categories.





# Turning Information into Action to Improve Kids' Lives

The KIDS COUNT in Washington partnership is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support for this report but acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented here are those of the partnership alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

- Come see us online: [www.kidscountwa.org](http://www.kidscountwa.org) – live in Jan. 2012
- Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/KidsCountinWA](https://www.facebook.com/KidsCountinWA)
- Hundreds of additional indicators of child and family well-being are available at our state's KIDS COUNT Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wa>.
- Contact: Lori Pfingst, Senior Policy Analyst, Washington State Budget & Policy Center, [LoriP@budgetandpolicy.org](mailto:LoriP@budgetandpolicy.org) or (206) 262-0973 ext. 226.



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