

Washington

A profile of its children

Understanding the facts about children in Washington illustrates why smart, proven investments in Washington's children and youth are critical to protecting Washington's competitive edge in a global market place.

Children in Washington¹

- 1,581,757 children (under the age of 18) live in the state;
- 283,000 children (18%) live in poverty (about \$22,800 or less for a family of four);
- 123,000 children (8%) live in extreme poverty (about \$11,400 or less for a family of four);
- 30 percent of children live in a household with only one parent.

Early Childhood²

- Approximately 11,598 children participate in the federally-funded Head Start program. However;
- Only 10 percent of 3-year-olds and 21 percent of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded pre-kindergarten, Head Start or a special education preschool program;
- 60 percent of children under the age of 6 have both or their only parent in the work force.

School Readiness³

- Math:
 - 55 percent of fourth graders are below grade level in math;
 - 60 percent of eighth graders are below grade level in math.
- Reading:
 - 66 percent of fourth graders are reading below grade level;
 - 63 percent of eighth graders are reading below grade level.

Graduation Rates⁴

- 24 percent of high school students do not graduate on time with a high school diploma;
- These rates are worse for youth of color:
 - 35 percent of African-Americans do not graduate on time;
 - 37 percent of Latinos do not graduate on time.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau 2011 population estimates and U.S. Census Bureau 2011 American Community Survey data. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *KIDS COUNT data center*. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved on February 4, 2012 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

² Barnett, W.S., Carolan, M. E., Fitzgerald, J., & Squires, J.H. (2011). *The state of preschool 2011 – State preschool yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University, National Institute for Early Education Research; Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *KIDS COUNT data center*. Baltimore, MD: Author. Retrieved on February 4, 2013 from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

³ National Center for Education Statistics (2011). *The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2011* (NCES 2012-457). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.; National Center for Education Statistics (2011). *The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2011* (NCES 2012-458). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education. (2012). *Provisional data file: SY2010-11 four-year regulatory adjusted cohort graduation rates*. Retrieved on November 30, 2012 from <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf>