

# Definitions and Acknowledgements



# Definitions

## Demographics

**Child Population by Race/Ethnicity** is the percentage of children under age 18 categorized by race/ethnicity. The categories are mutually exclusive.

**Percent of Children in Immigrant Families** is the percentage of children under age 18 who are foreign born or who live with at least one foreign-born parent.

**Children in Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Families:**

**Children Living Below Poverty Threshold** is the share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. In 2006, a family of two adults and two children were considered below poverty if their annual income fell below \$20,444; a family of one adult and two children were considered below poverty if their annual income fell below \$16,242.

**Children Living in Low-Income Families** is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold.

**Children Living in Crowded Households** is the percentage of children under age 18 living in households that have more than 1.00 persons per room.

**Children Living in Families that Spend More Than 30 Percent of Income on Housing** is the share of children living in low-income households where more than 30 percent of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses.

**Births to Teen Mothers** is the proportion of total births to all women who are under age 20.

**Family Households with Own Children** is the proportion of households consisting of at least one parent and their children under age 18. Married-couple families include the householder and his or her spouse. Male householders and female householders have no spouse present.

## Health and Development

**Percentage of Preterm Births** is the percentage of babies born with a gestational age of

less than 37 completed weeks. Birth certificates that did not report gestational age were not included in this tabulation.

**Percentage of Low-Birthweight Live Births** is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds. Data are based on birth certificates.

**Infant Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity** is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. Data at the county level are grouped in five-year periods because of the small numbers for some counties.

**Child Deaths** is the number of deaths to children between ages 1 and 14 from all causes per 100,000 children in this age range.

**Vaccination Coverage Among Children** is the percentage of children 19 to 35 months of age with 4:3:1:3 series, a combined series consisting of four doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) vaccine, three doses of polio vaccine, one dose of a measles-containing vaccine, and three doses of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine.

**Childhood Lead Poisoning** is the number of children ages 6 and younger whose screening had blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL), currently the threshold for defining an elevated blood lead level according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The CDC recommends that public health actions be initiated at this level. Since 1993, all Illinois children through 6 years of age who are entering day care, preschool or kindergarten must be screened for lead poisoning by a health care provider.

**Children Enrolled in Early Intervention** is the number of children with active Individual Service Plans in the Early Intervention program. Early Intervention serves children, ages 36 months and younger, who have disabilities due to developmental delay, have an eligible mental or physical condition that typically results in developmental delay, or have been determined through informed clinical judgment to be at risk of substantial developmental delay. Data are for June 30 of each year.

**Children Hospitalized for Psychoses** is the number of children under age 18 who were discharged from hospitals with a psychoses-related diagnosis. Psychoses includes the following hospital discharge categories: affective disorders; alcohol-related mental disorders; anxiety; somatoform dissociative and personality disorders; personal history of mental disorder, mental and behavioral problems, observation and screening for mental condition; pre-adult disorders; schizophrenia and related disorders; senility and organic mental disorders; substance-related mental disorders; other mental conditions; and other psychoses.

**Suicide Rates for Children** is the rate per 1,000 of children ages 10 to 19 who commit suicide.

## Education

**Illinois Pre-Kindergarten At-Risk Program Enrollment** is the total number of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten Program for Children at Risk of Academic Failure for each fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, that program was subsumed under

the Preschool for All Children program. Enrollment includes children participating in their second year in the program.

**Head Start Enrollment** is the number of children ages 3 to 5 enrolled in the federal Head Start program that serves economically disadvantaged children.

**Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity** is the number of children in preschool through post-graduate enrolled in public school.

**Public School Students Receiving Special Education** is the total number of students ages 3 to 21 receiving special education under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Disability categories include mental retardation, orthopedic impairment, specific learning disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, deafness, deaf-blind, speech/language, emotional disturbance, other health impairment, multiple disabilities, developmental delay, autism, and traumatic brain injury. The multiple disabilities category was added in 2001-2002 school year, and the deafness category was added in 2004-2005.

**Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates for Public Secondary Schools** is an estimate of the percentage of high school students who graduate with a regular diploma four years after starting 9th grade. The rate uses aggregate student enrollment data to estimate the size of an incoming freshman class and aggregate counts of the number of diplomas awarded four years later. The incoming freshman class is estimated by averaging the enrollment in 8th grade for one year, 9th grade for the next year, and 10th grade for the year after.

**Event Dropout Rates for Public School Students** is the percentage of public school students in grades 9–12 who dropped out of school between one year and the next. Illinois reports students who drop out between one July and the next.

**Share of Funding for Public Schools** is the percentage of the public school revenue from local, state and federal sources. The share of local government finances come from taxes and appropriations. For Illinois, state revenue includes contributions to teacher retirement

systems. Illinois corporate personal property replacement tax revenue is included as state rather than local revenue.

## Family Economic Security

**Median Income for Families with Own Children** is the median income for families with own children, or youth under age 18 in the household who are the sons and daughters of the householder by birth, marriage or adoption.

**Child Support Enforcement** is the total amount of child support distributions collected by federal fiscal year. Child support payments are collected through various methods, such as income withholding, unemployment compensation interception, and state or federal income tax refund offsets.

**Percentage of Children in Poverty** is the share of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the poverty threshold. The poverty threshold varies by family size. In 2006, a family of two adults and two children were considered below

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poverty if their annual income fell below \$20,444; a family of one adult and two children were considered below poverty if their annual income fell below \$16,242.

**Poverty Rates for Families with Related Children** is the percentage of families with incomes below the poverty threshold.

**Average Monthly Number of AFDC/TANF Families** is the number of families who received cash assistance through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or the Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) programs.

**Federal Earned Income Tax Credit Claims** is the number and percentage of tax returns filed and processed during the calendar year, including any returns filed for preceding tax years. It includes both the refundable and non-refundable portions. Data are by tax year.

**Average Monthly Food Stamp Participation** is the average number of households with children under age 18 participating in the federal Food Stamp program. The eligibility limit is gross monthly income of 130 percent of poverty.

**Average Monthly Enrollment in the Child Care Assistance Program** is the average number of children enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program per month. The program requires that parents be employed or enrolled in approved education and/or training programs in order to be eligible for child care assistance, and eligibility is based on income. Families must make monthly copayments on a sliding scale based on family size, income and number of children in care. For 1997-2006, income eligibility was 50 percent of the state median income.

## Children and Youth At Risk

**Juvenile Delinquency Petitions** is the number of petitions filed in court for youths ages 16 and under who commit criminal acts such as vandalism, theft, aggravated assault and battery, weapons charges, and drug crimes.

**Juveniles in State Correctional Facilities** is the number of youths who enter state facilities before age 17. Youths may remain in juvenile facilities until age 21, depending on the circumstances of their case. Minors tried

and convicted in criminal (adult) court and sentenced before age 17 begin their sentences in juvenile facilities. Data does not included youths in county detention centers.

**Disconnected Youth** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and who are not working (full- or part-time). This measure is sometimes also called “idle teens.”

**Children in Substitute Care** is the number of children who were in foster care or other substitute care on the last day of the state fiscal year.

**Rate of Children with Indicated Reports of Abuse and Neglect** is all cases where the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services found evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. The number of indicated cases is smaller than the number of reported cases, which may eventually prove to be unfounded. Data are for unduplicated counts, meaning that a child was only counted once during the year, regardless of the number of times a report was made. Data are for state fiscal year

and are displayed as a rate per 1,000 children, not a percentage.

**Percentage of Children in Foster Care Who Achieve Permanency** is the percentage of foster children who are placed in one of three permanent living arrangements: reunification (children returned home to their parents), adoption or subsidized guardianship (caregivers receive state financial assistance to care for children, but parental rights are not formally terminated).

## Chicago

**Child Poverty Rates** are estimates from the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

**Graduation and Dropout Rates for Age-13 Cohorts** are students who were 13 years old on September 1 of the cohort year, plus students who transferred into Chicago Public Schools (CPS) after age 13 and were the correct age for the cohort. Rates of graduation and dropout by age 18 exclude students who were no longer enrolled in CPS because of transfer, institutionalization or death.

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## About *Illinois Kids Count*



The *Illinois Kids Count* is a project of Voices for Illinois Children and is part of a network of projects supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. *Illinois Kids Count* uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children. The Foundation publishes an annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* that tracks the status of children in the United States.

By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, *Illinois Kids Count* seeks to enrich local and state discussions of ways to build and secure better futures for all children. It is intended to gauge the seriousness of the problems facing children, and to guide the policy trends and goals on behalf of children. *Illinois Kids Count* exists to measure child outcomes and contribute to public accountability for those outcomes, resulting in a model for data-driven advocacy for children, their families and their communities.

The findings and conclusions presented are those of Voices for Illinois Children alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The *Illinois Kids Count 2008* can be viewed, downloaded or ordered online at [www.voices4kids.org](http://www.voices4kids.org).

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