

2 0 0 7 KidBits: Using data to drive better outcomes for children and youth ~ ~ Facts in Brief

Poverty data related to children and youth:

- Some 30% of DC's children lived in poverty in 2004 compared with only 17% nationally.
- The District of Columbia ranked first for the highest extreme child poverty rate in 2004 -- 19.2%. The national rate is 7%. (http://www.nccp.org/pub_cpt05b.html)
- Only 20% of students in elementary schools in the District's poorest neighborhoods score at/above grade level; 60% of less poor students score at/above grade level.
- The poorest District neighborhoods have a violent crime rate six times higher than in the least impoverished areas placing children at greater risk of being affected by violence.
- Just under half of all substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect come from the poorest fifth of District neighborhoods.
- The poorest fifth of District neighborhoods accounted for 40% of all teen births in CY 2001. (<http://www.dcfpi.org/11206pov.pdf>)
- Some 52% (18,433) of children in families with incomes below poverty do not have an employed parent.
- Just over 60% of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in families with income below the federal poverty level. (Based on a three year average of calendar years 2003-2005; on-line at http://www.nccp.org/state_detail_demographic_poor_DC.html)

Youth population by age: The total youth population in the District of Columbia in 2005 according to the American Community Survey was 123,777. The age breakdown is:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Approximate population count</i>
Under age 5	37,723
Ages 5 to 9	27,746
Ages 10 to 14	30,562
Ages 15 to 19	27,746

Youth population by ward: According to the 2000 Census, the youth population in the District was 114,992; by Ward, the youth populations were:

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Number under age 18</i>	<i>Percentage under age 18 (Ward)</i>
1	13,102	18%
2	5,513	8%
3	8,817	12%
4	15,691	20%
5	15,328	21%
6	11,657	17%
7	19,420	28%
8	25,664	36%



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Child welfare

- In 2006, there were 2,340 children and youth in foster care in the District. The average length of stay in foster care was 45 months in FY 2006.
- In 2005, more than one-third, or more than 800, of District children in foster care were between the ages of 15 and 21.
- In FY 2006, 182 young people aged out of the foster care system without finding a permanent home.
- In the District of Columbia, 85% of children involved in the child welfare system have parents who have substance abuse problems.
- District youth leaving foster care without permanent homes are at increased risk for involvement in the criminal justice system, teen pregnancy and homelessness.

Child and youth health

- According to the data, only 22% of children received a dental screening in FY 2005 even though the Dental Periodicity Schedule (on-line at <http://www.brightfutures.org/healthcheck/resources/DentalPeriodicity.pdf>) calls for annual visits starting within the first year of life.
- Currently, one in two children in the District of Columbia are at risk of hunger.
- In 2004, there were 12.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in the District of Columbia, up from 10.9 in 2003.
- Of the estimated 8,960 children and youth with a mental illness in the District of Columbia, only 448 will receive treatment in FY 2006.
- According to the State Center for Health Statistics, in CY 2004 there were 871 babies who were low-birth weight, born at less than 5.5 pounds, born in the District of Columbia.
- An average of 41% of the youth arrested in the District of Columbia in July 2005 had positive drug tests upon arrest. The results ranged from 17% for 12-year-olds to 69% for 17-year-olds.
- The Centers for Disease Control report that more than 8,000 adolescents need substance abuse treatment in the District of Columbia.
- The District of Columbia has the 7th highest overweight levels for high school students. Nearly 14% of high school students are overweight. (*F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies are Failing in America*, 2005.)

Early care and education

- There are 31,500 children eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program in the District of Columbia.
- In FY 2006, the Child Care Subsidy Program served 29,120 children, up 34.7 % from FY 2005.
- Only 39%, or 132, of the 339 child development facilities participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program and as a result the *Going for the Gold!* tiered rate reimbursement system are at the high quality, or Gold, level.

Youth opportunity

- The DCPS Afterschool for All program, funded by the Early Care and Education Administration in DHS, served 9,612 young people in FY 2006.
- In FY 2006, 215 young people participated in the Mayor's Leadership Institute while only 290 youth were served by the YO, or Youth Opportunities, grant due to a decrease in Federal funds.
- In CY 2006, 11,000 teens signed up for summer youth employment.
- According to the State Center for Health Statistics, 43 youth ages 15-19 died as a result of violence in CY 2004.
- In CY 2006, there were 3,293 juvenile arrests.

This data is from *KidBits: Using data to drive better outcomes for children and youth, 2007*, from the Children's Advocacy Roundtable, a project of DC Action for Children, and available at www.dckids.org.