



State Indicators

Why We Use These Indicators

The mission of Montana Kids Count is to track the well-being of vulnerable families and children. We therefore chose the indicators that best measure this, with the

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2005	2006	2007
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Total state population	903,500	934,737	944,632	957,861
Population under age 18	228,370	218,731	217,848	219,498
Children under age 5	54,596	57,200	57,916	59,132
Children ages 5 through 17	173,774	161,531	159,932	160,381
Population under age 18 by gender				
Male children	118,092	112,340	112,380	112,664
Female children	111,693	106,822	106,549	106,834
Population under age 18 by race/ethnicity				
White alone	198,897	187,088	186,539	186,807
American Indian/Alaska Native	22,141	21,304	21,072	20,775
Hispanic/Latino	7,378	8,955	9,378	9,705
Median age, total	38	40	39	39
Male	37	39	38	38
Female	38	41	41	40
HEALTH AND HEALTH INSURANCE				
Number of children enrolled in CHIP (under 19, monthly average)	8,770	12,019	13,289	16,678
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid (under 18, monthly average)	N/A	N/A	47,077	45,125
Percent of children under 18 without health insurance	16%	14%	14%	N/A
Percent of children 5 and under without health insurance	16%	16%	16%	N/A
Percent of children ages 6-17 without health insurance	15%	13%	13%	N/A
Percent of children under 18 without health insurance and in poverty (below 100% FPL)	24%	29%	28%	N/A
Percent of children under 18 without health insurance and in poverty (below 250% FPL)	8%	6%	8%	N/A
Immunization rate for 2-year olds who are seen by a health care provider (see box)	92%	92%	93%	81%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov); The Annie E. Casey Foundation (www.aecf.org); Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS, www.dphhs.mt.gov).

IMMUNIZATION RATES

An immunization rate, as used in this text, is a measure of the percent of children within a population who are fully immunized before their third birthday. "Fully immunized" is a definition that is continuously evolving and, as it comes to include ever more inoculations, immunization rates are declining and not fully comparable over time.

For 2007, "fully immunized" included 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; 3 doses of polio, 3 doses of H. influenza type b; 1 dose of measles, mumps and rubella; 3 doses of hepatitis B; and 1 dose of varicella (4:3:3:1:3:1). In 2006, the dose of varicella was not required (4:3:3:1:3), and for earlier years, even fewer inoculations were required to satisfy the condition of "fully immunized."

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2005	2006	2007
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Overall unemployment rate (all ages)	5.2%	4.0%	3.2%	3.1%
Teen unemployment rate (ages 16-19)	12.4%	11.9%	10.2%	10.3%
Median household income	\$29,672	\$39,301	\$40,627	\$43,531
Per-capita personal income	\$22,933	\$29,410	\$31,004	\$33,145
Children living w/ one parent (percent of all children)	25%	28%	25%	26%
Children living w/ grandparents (percent of all children)	2%	5%	4%	N/A
Number of children in state care	2,180	2,078	2,129	1,774
Percent of children exiting care by returning home	N/A	28.3%	32.3%	38.8%
Percent of children exiting care through adoption	N/A	9.8%	10.7%	13.8%
Percent of population w/ high school degree or higher				
Population ages 18-24	78%	85%	82%	86%
Population ages 25-34	87%	93%	92%	91%
Population ages 35-44	91%	93%	92%	92%
Percent of population 25 and older w/ bachelor's degree or higher				
White alone	26%	27%	28%	28%
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	11%	12%	11%	10%
Number of families with dependent children receiving TANF benefits (monthly average)	4,641	3,938	3,278	3,170
Number of Food Stamp recipients of all ages (monthly average)	59,660	81,665	80,320	80,114
Percent of children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade eligible for free/reduced-price lunch	32%	35%	35%	36%
Number of women, infants, and children receiving benefits through the WIC program	22,353	19,785	19,131	19,820
Percent of children in poverty (below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line, see table on page 17)	17%	20%	17%	18%
Percent of children in extreme poverty (below 50% FPL)	4%	7%	8%	7%
Percent of children in moderate poverty (below 200% FPL)	49%	47%	43%	42%
Percent of children under 5 in poverty (below 100% FPL)	17%	20%	19%	21%
Percent of people ages 18-24 in poverty (below 100% FPL)	25%	27%	28%	27%
Percent of single-parent families w/children in poverty (below 100% FPL)	32%	37%	32%	36%
Percent of married-couple families w/children in poverty (below 100% FPL)	7%	9%	8%	8%

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (www.bea.gov); Montana Department of Labor and Industry (www.dli.mt.gov/); The Annie E. Casey Foundation (www.aecf.org); U.S. Census Bureau (www.census.gov); MT DPHHS (www.dphhs.gov).

understanding that economic security drives many outcomes for children. The lack of secure parental employment has been shown to have far-reaching problems for children living in these households, forcing parents to take two or three jobs to cobble together an income to support a family. This situation holds true in Montana where 21 percent of children under age 18 live in working poor families.

Accessing State Data

Readers may also access the Montana Kids Count data on the Web at www.montanakidscount.org. Data may be accessed and printed or reviewed in various formats.

Additional Web Resources

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the sponsoring organization for Montana Kids Count, offers data on its Web page at www.aecf.org/kidscount.data.htm. The foundation provides access to online databases of information at the state and legislative district level.

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2005	2006	2007
SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION				
Total school enrollment (K-12)	166,864	157,467	157,011	154,052
Public school enrollment (K-12)	154,700	145,416	44,418	142,823
Private school enrollment (K-12)	8,537	8,084	8,490	7,123
Home school enrollment (K-12)	3,627	3,987	4,103	4,106
Public school enrollment				
Pre-Kindergarten	537	798	794	539
Grades K-8	104,648	97,643	96,144	96,321
Grades 9-12	49,690	47,773	47,480	46,502
Number of students with disabilities, ages 3-21	19,039	19,259	18,569	18,158
High school event dropout rate	4.2%	3.6%	3.7%	N/A
Enrollment in Early Head Start	228	591	570	638
Enrollment in Head Start	4,377	5,405	5,391	5,448
4th grade reading proficiency				
White students	N/A	80%	79%	79%
American Indian students	N/A	83%	83%	82%
Achievement gap (see box)	N/A	58%	60%	54%
8th grade reading proficiency				
White students	N/A	80%	79%	79%
American Indian students	N/A	83%	83%	82%
Achievement gap (see box)	N/A	-25	-23	-28
8th grade reading proficiency				
White students	N/A	76%	79%	81%
American Indian students	N/A	80%	82%	84%
Achievement gap (see box)	N/A	48%	51%	57%
Achievement gap (see box)				
White students				
American Indian students				
Achievement gap (see box)				
BIRTHS AND DEATHS				
Number of live births	10,946	11,573	12,499	11,881
Birth rate (live births per 1,000 population)	12.1	12.4	13.2	12.7
Number of infant deaths (<1 year old)	63	81	70	71
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.8	6.9	5.6	6.0
Number of child deaths (ages 1-17)	102	70	67	68
Child death rate (child deaths per 1,000 children)	0.63	0.25	0.32	0.33
Percent of child deaths from accidents	58%	37%	43%	47%
Percent of child deaths from homicides/suicides	14%	26%	12%	15%
Percent of child deaths from non-traumatic causes	28%	37%	45%	38%

Sources: Montana Office of Public Instruction (www.opi.mt.gov); MT DPHHS (www.dphhs.mt.gov).

ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Achievement gap is defined in this text as the percentage-point difference between the percent of White students at proficiency and the percent proficiency among American Indian students. This gap can be calculated between any two groups, be it racial, socio-economic or geographic, and is a measure of the disparity in achievement between the groups.

Data can be viewed as profiles, graphs, maps, and rankings.

More Information

Montana Kids Count serves as a state resource for data pertaining to Montana's children and families. We frequently respond to specialized data requests and inquiries regarding information that may not be found in the book. Please contact us directly to see if we can meet your needs.

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2005	2006	2007
HEAD START				
Total actual enrollment	4,377	5,405	5,391	5,448
Head Start enrollment by race/ethnicity				
White	2,390	2,647	2,710	2,670
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,747	2,171	2,225	2,061
Hispanic/Latino	137	487	338	812
Number of families enrolled in Head Start	4,074	5,015	4,956	4,926
Number of homeless families served	N/A	152	139	197
Number of enrolled children with disabilities	543	861	774	758
Number of enrolled children who are fully immunized for their age	4,063	4,895	4,802	4,929
Number of enrolled children referred for mental health treatment	328	183	184	208
Number of enrolled children who have completed a professional dental examination	3,639	4,092	4,169	4,000
Number of enrolled children with health insurance	3,176	4,644	4,911	5,028
Number of enrolled children with CHIP coverage	75	193	216	221
Percent of enrolled families receiving TANF benefits	28%	33%	24%	24%
EARLY CHILDHOOD CHARACTERISTICS				
Percent of children under age 5 without health insurance	16%	16%	16%	NA
Percent of children under age 5 living in poverty (below 100% FPL)	17%	20%	19%	21%
Number of children receiving child care subsidies	N/A	5,379	5,285	5,173
Births to mothers receiving prenatal care starting 1st trimester (percent of all births)	73%	83%	83%	84%
Births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care (percent of all births)	3%	3%	N/A	N/A
Births to mothers under age 20 (percent of all births)	12%	10%	N/A	N/A
Births to teens who were already mothers (percent of all births)	16%	17%	N/A	N/A
Births to unmarried mothers (percent of all births)	31%	35%	N/A	N/A
Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (percent of all births)	15%	15%	N/A	N/A
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (percent of all births)	18%	18%	N/A	N/A
Pre-term births (<37 weeks of gestation) (percent of all births)	11%	11%	N/A	N/A
Low birth-weight births (< 5lbs 8oz) (percent of all births)	6%	7%	N/A	N/A

Sources: Montana Head Start Program (www.headstartmt.org); The Annie E. Casey Foundation (www.aecf.org).

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Montana continues to work to ensure there is a comprehensive system in place to support young children and their families. Montana's Best Beginnings Early Childhood System seeks to improve long-term school readiness outcomes for all children and families in the state. A useful way to understand school readiness is the Ready Child Equation, a tool developed and recognized nationally that synthesizes the multifaceted components that go into ensuring a child is ready for school and for life.

Montana Kids Count has provided research and evaluation support in an effort to create an early childhood system that ensures:

- Children have access to high quality early childhood programs.
- Families with young children are supported in their communities.
- Children have access to a medical home and health insurance.
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs of young children and families are supported.

The Ready Child Equation:
Ready Families + Ready Communities + Ready Services + Ready Schools = Ready Children

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2005	2006	2007
SAFETY ISSUES				
Juvenile arrest rate (ages 10-17, per 1,000 juveniles)	119.7	106.5	113.7	104.3
Number of juvenile arrests for all crimes	13,595	11,178	11,735	10,765
Arrests for drug offenses (percent of all juvenile arrests)	8%	6%	5%	9%
Arrests for violent offenses (percent of all juvenile arrests)	11%	12%	12%	12%
Number of motor vehicle crashes with driver under age 18	3,703	3,084	3,158	2,711
As percent of all crashes	17%	14%	14%	13%
Number of substantiated cases of abuse	N/A	1,238	1,154	1,099
As percentage of reported cases of abuse	N/A	14.3%	12.3%	12.0%
Indicators	2001	2003	2005	2007
YOUTH RISK BEHAVIORS				
Percent of high school students who smoked cigarettes within 30 days prior to survey				
All students	28.5%	22.9%	20.1%	20.0%
American Indian students (reservation)	51.5%	52.1%	52.2%	47.9%
Percent of high school students who used smokeless tobacco within 30 days prior to survey				
All students	15.7%	13.2%	14.8%	12.9%
American Indian students (reservation)	26.3%	20.8%	28.8%	25.8%
Percent of high school students who drank alcohol within 30 days prior to survey				
All students	54.1%	49.5%	48.6%	46.5%
American Indian students (reservation)	54.8%	48.8%	56.3%	53.9%
Percent of high school students who engaged in binge drinking within 30 days prior to survey				
All students	41.4%	37.3%	34.4%	32.7%
American Indian students (reservation)	47.0%	42.7%	44.9%	45.7%
Percent of high school students who smoked marijuana within 30 days prior to survey				
All students	27.1%	23.1%	22.3%	21.0%
American Indian students (reservation)	50.1%	44.6%	51.0%	44.1%
Percent of high school students who attempted suicide during the past 12 months				
All students	10.4%	9.7%	10.3%	7.9%
American Indian students (reservation)	20.4%	15.3%	16.6%	15.8%
Percent of high school students who rarely or never wore a seat belt when riding in a car	19.8%	17.8%	13.9%	14.2%
Percent of high school students who drove when drinking alcohol within 30 days prior to survey	21.8%	20.4%	18.5%	16.0%

Sources: Montana Board of Crime Control (<http://mbcc.mt.gov>); Montana Department of Transportation (www.mdt.mt.gov); MT Office of Public Instruction (www.opi.mt.gov).

RISK BEHAVIOR

Data on youth risk behavior come from the Montana Office of Public Instruction's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is conducted across the state in the spring of odd-numbered years and surveys youth in 9th through 12th grade. The survey ensures data can be provided specifically for the American Indian Youth population, which is in turn broken down into Reservation and Urban.

2008 Federal Poverty Threshold (100% Federal Poverty Level)

Persons in family/household	Household Income
1	\$10,400
2	\$14,000
3	\$17,600
4	\$21,200
5	\$24,800
6	\$28,400
7	\$32,000
8	\$35,600

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.