



“Statistics may be defined as a body of methods for making wise decisions in the face of uncertainty.”

– W.A. Wallis

Understanding the Data

The tables on the following pages provide data on children in Montana, including demographics, socio-economic characteristics, health and health insurance, education, births and deaths, and early childhood. There are several things that are important to know about the data.

Where Do We Get the Data?

Most of the data we use come from Montana state agencies, the U. S. Census Bureau, or the Annie E. Casey Foundation. State agencies gather numbers from administrative records such as birth and death certificates, Medicaid files, and program reports.

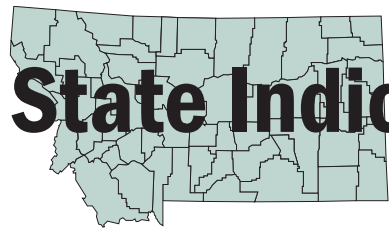
Making Sense of the Data

Generally speaking, indicators do not change dramatically from one year to the next. Sometimes there may be an anomalous year when one event causes a drastic increase in a rate or percentage, which in turn makes that year look dramatically different from the preceding years. For example, if a tragic car crash results in multiple teen deaths within a county, this event may skew the rate for that one year.

For the most part, the indicators vary only slightly, making it very important to look at trends over time periods of five or ten years. This approach yields a much more accurate picture of what is actually going on in the state or within a county. For instance, the total number of children ages 5-17 is decreasing slowly in Montana. On a year-to-year basis this may constitute a decrease of less than 1,000 children, but when examining the trend between 2000 and 2008, the decline is significant (-8%) and has serious ramifications for the state budget.

Economic Indicators as Drivers

Economic conditions tend to be the driving force behind most indicators, such as demographics and program participation rates. For example, when a nation or a state is in a period of economic growth or decline, the percent of people in poverty using income-tested programs or accessing public health insurance will change.



State Indicators

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2006	2007	2008
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Total state population	903,500	944,632	957,861	967,440
Population under age 18	228,370	217,848	219,498	220,358
Children under age 5	54,596	57,916	59,132	61,114
Children ages 5 through 17	173,774	159,932	160,381	159,244
Population under age 18 by gender				
Male children	118,092	112,380	112,664	113,112
Female children	111,693	106,549	106,834	107,246
Population under age 18 by race/ethnicity				
White alone	198,897	186,539	186,807	193,226
American Indian/Alaska Native	22,141	21,072	20,775	25,666
Hispanic/Latino	7,378	9,378	9,705	11,749
Median age, total population	38	39	39	39
Male	37	38	38	38
Female	38	41	40	40
HEALTH AND HEALTH INSURANCE				
Number of children enrolled in CHIP (under 19, monthly average)	8,770	13,289	16,678	17,465
As a percent of all children under 19	3%	5%	7%	7%
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid (under 18, monthly average)	N/A	47,077	45,125	46,463
As a percent of all children under 18	N/A	22%	21%	21%
Percent of children under 18 without health insurance	16%	14%	13%	N/A
Percent of children 5 and under without health insurance	16%	16%	13%	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%	28%	20%	N/A
Percent of children under 18 without health insurance and in poverty (below 250% FPL)	8%	8%	7%	N/A
Immunization rate for 2-year-olds who are seen by a health care provider, 2008*	92%	93%	81%	63%

Why Do We Use the Indicators Presented Here?

The mission of Montana Kids Count is to promote awareness and understanding of the status of Montana's vulnerable families and children. We therefore choose the indicators that best measure their well-being, with the understanding that economic well-being drives many outcomes for children.

How Can You Access the Data?

Readers may also access the Montana Kids Count data at www.montanakidscount.org. This site provides a portal to the national Kids Count Data Center, where users can access data both by state and across states, from Montana Kids Count as well as that collected by our sponsoring organization, the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Through this site, data can be accessed in various formats, such as profiles, graphs, maps and rankings (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/MT>).

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

Note: *= See page 76 for changes in immunization rate definition.

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2006	2007	2008
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Overall unemployment rate (all ages)	5.2%	3.2%	3.1%	4.5%
Teen unemployment rate (ages 16-19)	12.4%	10.2%	10.3%	13.3%
Median household income	\$33,281	\$40,299	\$43,000	\$43,654
Per-capita personal income	\$22,933	\$31,004	\$33,145	\$34,256
Children living w/one parent (percent of all children)	25%	25%	26%	28%
Children living w/grandparents (percent of all children)	2%	4%	5%	6%
Children in state care	2,180	2,129	1,774	1,588
Percent of children exiting state care by returning home	N/A	32%	39%	36%
Percent of children exiting state care through adoption	N/A	11%	14%	16%
Percent of population with high school degree or higher				
Population ages 18-24	78%	82%	86%	83%
Population ages 25-34	87%	92%	91%	92%
Population ages 35-44	91%	92%	92%	94%
Percent of population 25 and older with bachelor's degree or higher				
White alone	26%	28%	28%	28%
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	11%	11%	10%	14%
Number of families with dependent children receiving TANF benefits (monthly average)	4,641	3,278	3,170	3,292
Number of Food Stamp recipients of all ages (monthly average)	59,660	80,320	80,114	87,241
Percent of children enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade eligible for free/reduced-price lunch	32%	35%	36%	37%
Number of women, infants and children receiving benefits through the WIC Program	22,353	19,131	19,820	20,619
Percent of children under 18 in poverty (below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line, see table on page 11)	17%	17%	18%	21%
Percent of children under 18 in extreme poverty (below 50% FPL)	4%	8%	7%	8%
Percent of children under 18 in moderate poverty (below 200% FPL)	49%	43%	42%	42%
Percent of children under age 5 in poverty (below 100% FPL)	17%	19%	21%	25%
Percent of people ages 18 through 24 in poverty (below 100% FPL)	25%	28%	27%	29%
Percent of single-parent families w/children in poverty (below 100% FPL)	32%	32%	36%	37%
Percent of married-couple families w/children in poverty (below 100% FPL)	7%	8%	8%	8%

2009 Poverty Threshold (100% Federal Poverty Level)

Persons in family/ houshold	Household income
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

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).

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2006	2007	2008
SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION				
Total school enrollment (K-12)	166,864	157,011	154,052	152,725
Public school enrollment (K-12)	154,700	144,418	142,823	140,936
Private school enrollment (K-12)	8,537	8,490	7,123	7,816
Home school enrollment (K-12)	3,627	4,103	4,106	3,973
Public School Enrollment				
Pre-Kindergarten	537	794	539	963
Grades K-8	104,648	96,144	96,321	95,906
Grades 9-12	49,690	47,480	46,502	45,030
Number of students with disabilities, ages 3-21	19,039	18,569	18,158	17,645
High school dropout rate	4.2%	3.7%	5.2%	N/A
Enrollment in Head Start	4,377	5,391	5,448	5,470
Enrollment in Early Head Start	228	570	638	762
4th grade reading proficiency, all students	N/A	79%	79%	81%
White students	N/A	83%	82%	85%
American Indian/Alaska Native students	N/A	60%	54%	56%
4th grade reading proficiency gap	N/A	-23	-28	-29
8th grade reading proficiency, all students	N/A	79%	81%	81%
White students	N/A	82%	84%	84%
American Indian/Alaska Native students	N/A	51%	57%	57%
8th grade reading proficiency gap	N/A	-31	-27	-27
BIRTHS AND DEATHS				
Number of live births	10,946	12,499	11,881	12,124
Birth rate (live births per 1,000 population)	12.1	13.2	12.7	12.8
Number of infant deaths (<1 year old)	63	70	71	73
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.8	5.6	6.0	6.1
Number of child deaths (ages 1-17)	102	67	68	75
Child death rate (child deaths per 1,000 children)	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2
Percent of child deaths from accidents	58%	43%	47%	42%
Percent of child deaths from homicides/suicides	14%	12%	15%	13%
Percent of child deaths from non-traumatic causes	28%	45%	38%	45%

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 said groups.

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

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2006	2007	2008
HEAD START				
Total actual enrollment	4,377	5,391	5,448	5,470
Head Start enrollment by race/ethnicity				
White	2,390	2,710	2,670	2,704
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,747	2,225	2,061	2,231
Hispanic/Latino origin	137	338	812	147
Number of families enrolled in Head Start	4,074	4,956	4,926	4,961
Number of homeless families served	N/A	139	197	408
Number of enrolled children with disabilities	543	774	758	705
Number of enrolled children referred for mental health treatment	328	184	208	149
Number of enrolled children who have completed a professional dental examination	3,639	4,169	4,000	4,121
Number of enrolled children with health insurance	3,176	4,911	5,028	4,968
Number of enrolled children with CHIP coverage	75	216	221	258
Percent of enrolled families receiving TANF benefits	28%	24%	24%	22%
EARLY CHILDHOOD CHARACTERISTICS				
Percent of children under 5 without health insurance	16%	16%	13%	N/A
Percent of children under 5 living in poverty (below 100% FPL)	17%	19%	21%	25%
Number of children receiving Best Beginnings child care scholarships (monthly average)	N/A	5,285	5,173	5,324
Number of live births	10,946	12,499	11,881	12,124
Birth rate (number of live births per 1,000 population)	12.1	13.2	12.7	12.8
Percent of infants born to women receiving prenatal care beginning in 1st trimester	73%	82%	82%	69%
Births to mothers receiving inadequate or no prenatal care (percent of all births)	3%	4%	4%	N/A
Pre-term births (<37 weeks of gestation) (percent of all births)	11%	10%	10%	10%
Low birth-weight births (<5lbs 8 oz) (percent of all births)	6%	7%	7%	7%
Births to teens (<20) (percent of all births)	16%	8%	7%	8%
Births to teens who were already mothers (percent of teen births)	16%	18%	N/A	N/A
Births to unmarried women (percent of all births)	31%	36%	36%	37%
Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (percent of all births)	15%	15%	13%	N/A
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (percent of all births)	18%	18%	17%	18%

Prenatal Care Initiation

2008 data for the percent of infants born to mothers who initiated prenatal care in the first trimester show a marked decrease from earlier years. The decrease relates to changes in the way the data are collected on the new birth certificates implemented in Montana in 2008. Much, if not all, of this decline is related to changes in reporting and not to changes in prenatal care utilization. In each state that has implemented the new birth certificates, the percentage of women reported to begin care in the first trimester has typically fallen by at least 10 percent. As a result, 2008 rates are not comparable to rates from earlier years. A more in-depth discussion can be found in the National Vital Statistics Report (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf).

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

Indicators	2000 Base Year	2006	2007	2008
SAFETY ISSUES				
Juvenile arrest rate (ages 10-17; per 1,000 juveniles)	119.7	113.7	104.3	89.0
Number of juvenile offenses	13,595	11,735	10,765	9,187
Drug offenses (percent of all juvenile offenses)	8%	5%	9%	8%
Violent offenses (percent of all juvenile offenses)	11%	12%	12%	14%
Number of motor vehicle crashes with driver under 18	3,703	3,158	2,711	2,511
As percent of all crashes	17%	14%	13%	11%
Number of substantiated cases of abuse	N/A	1,154	1,099	935
As percent of reported cases of abuse	N/A	12%	12%	11%
Indicators	2002	2004	2006	2008
PREVENTION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (Grades 8, 10, and 12)				
Percent of students who feel safe in their neighborhood				
All students	87%	88%	88%	88%
American Indian students	76%	76%	75%	77%
Percent of students who feel safe at their school				
All students	86%	86%	86%	87%
American Indian students	85%	76%	78%	79%
Percent of students who feel close to their mother and/or father				
All students	81%	81%	81%	81%
American Indian students	75%	76%	76%	76%
Percent of students who do not have a trusted adult to talk to about their problems				
All students	13%	6%	6%	12%
American Indian students	18%	9%	8%	17%
Percent of students who feel sad or depressed on most days during past year				
All students	37%	39%	39%	38%
American Indian students	51%	52%	54%	51%
Percent of students who skipped/cut school at least once during last 4 weeks				
All students	28%	30%	27%	30%
American Indian students	42%	46%	45%	43%
Percent of students who are praised by their teacher(s) when working hard in school				
All students	44%	48%	50%	50%
American Indian students	45%	49%	50%	47%

Prevention Needs Assessment

Data on Montana prevention needs come from the DPHHS's Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) survey, which is conducted across the state each year in grades 8, 10 and 12. The data are provided at several levels, including by county, by school district, by gender, and by race, the latter providing an opportunity to conduct analyses specifically for American Indian youth.

Sources: Montana Board of Crime Control (<http://mbcc.mt.gov>); Montana Department of Transportation (www.mdt.mt.gov); MT DPHHS (www.dphhs.gov).