

# CHILDREN IN THE USA: SOME HARD FACTS



## CHILD POVERTY

- Almost half of young children in the United States live in poverty or near poverty.<sup>1</sup>
- The USA ranks 35 of 40 developed nations in rate of child poverty.<sup>2</sup>
- Poverty has a profound effect on specific circumstances, such as birth weight, infant mortality, language development, chronic illness, environmental exposure, nutrition, and injury.<sup>3</sup>
- Nearly 1 child in 5 – or 12.8 million children– was poor in 2017.
- 70% of poor children are children of color.
- 3 million US children live in families surviving on \$2 per day per person.

## CHILD HEALTH

- A baby is born without health insurance every minute.
- Over 2.5 million school-aged children are uninsured

## CHILD WELFARE

- A child is confirmed abused or neglected every 47 seconds in the USA.
- The average stay in foster care is 19 months.
- Over 20,000 children “aged out” of foster care without a permanent family.

## EDUCATION

- Less than half of poor children are ready for school at age 5.
- 67% of public school 8th graders cannot read at grade level.
- A public school student is suspended every 2 seconds.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

- 2,363 children are arrested each day in the USA – one every 37 seconds.
- About 76,000 children are placed in the adult criminal justice system each year
- 48,043 American children were incarcerated on an average night in 2015

## GUN VIOLENCE

- 3,410 children and teens were killed with a gun in 2017
- American civilians own more than 393 million guns
- A child or teen dies from guns every 2 hours and 34 minutes.

1. “Poverty and Child Health in the United States,” American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018: [pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/4/e20160339](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/137/4/e20160339).  
2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.  
4. All other statistics from Children Defense fund: [childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/](https://childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/).

