

**Embargoed for Release Until**

12:01 AM, Thursday, September 19, 2013

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**Ohio Ranks 33rd in the Country for Child Poverty (1<sup>st</sup> best)**

**Nearly one in four (23.8%) Ohio children lived in poverty in 2012**

**Columbus, Ohio** - Today the U.S. Census Bureau released new data detailing the extent of child poverty in Ohio that shows there were 620,921 poor children in 2012. More than twenty-three percent (23.8%) of Ohio's children were living in poverty in 2012, compared to 24.2% in 2011. The change in the child poverty rate was not statistically significant.

“Children will lead the future of Ohio. Let’s not neglect our greatest natural resource,” said Renuka Mayadev, executive director of Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio. “We can strengthen our economy by supporting investments in our children. It costs our nation trillions of dollars in lost productivity each year that children are living in poverty. Together, we must recommit ourselves to ending child poverty. Our great state can lead the way.”

The Census Bureau data released today shows:

- Ohio ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> among the fifty states in child poverty, (where 1<sup>st</sup> is best).
- Nearly one in four children in Ohio – 23.8% - were poor in 2012. The percentage of children under age six who were poor was even higher at 28.3%.
- 11.8% of children in Ohio -308,053 children- were extremely poor; while 124,221 or 15.0% of children under six were extremely poor.
- Children of color were disproportionately poor. More than half (50.1%) of Black children and 38.9% of Hispanic children were poor. 17.1 percent of White, non-Hispanic children, were poor.
- Poverty is defined as an annual income below \$23,492 for the average family of four—\$1,958 a month, \$452 a week, or \$64 a day. Extreme poverty is an annual family income less than half of the poverty level - \$11,746 a year, \$979 a month, \$226 a week, or \$32 a day for the average family of four.

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The Children’s Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind<sup>®</sup> mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.