

DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) is the number of deaths to children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred. **SOURCES:** **Death Statistics:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred. **SOURCE:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Overall Rank for each state was obtained in the following manner. First, we converted the 2009 (or 2007/2008, depending on the indicator) state numerical values for each of the 10 key indicators into standard scores. We then summed those standard scores to create a total standard score for each of the 50 states. Finally, we ranked the states on the basis of their total standard score in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (50). Standard scores were derived by subtracting the mean score from the observed score and dividing the amount by the standard

deviation for that distribution of scores. All measures were given the same weight in calculating the total standard score.

Percent Change Over Time Analysis was computed by comparing the 2009 (or 2007/2008, depending on the indicator) data for 8 key indicators with the data for 2000. To calculate percent change, we subtracted the value for 2000 from the value for 2007/2008/2009 and then divided that quantity by the value for 2000. The results are multiplied by 100 for readability. The percent change was calculated on rounded data, and the “percent change” figure has been rounded to the nearest whole number. The 2009 estimates for the Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment and the Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) should not be compared to estimates prior to 2008 because of substantial changes made to the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked.

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data reflect the mother’s place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred. SOURCE: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Percent of Children Affected by Foreclosure Since 2007 is an estimate of the percentage of children under age 18 living in a household that entered foreclosure in 2007, 2008, or 2009. Children living in rental units are not included in this analysis. SOURCES: Mortgage Bankers Association, National Delinquency Survey; and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009) is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In calendar year 2009, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$21,756. Poverty status is not determined for people living in group quarters, such as military barracks, prisons, and other institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children). The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own single parent, either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include cohabiting couples and do not include children living with married stepparents. SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means that neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months

prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent also were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable. The 2009 estimate for this measure should not be compared to estimates prior to 2008 because of substantial changes made to the 2008 American Community Survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children With at Least One Unemployed Parent is the percentage of children under age 18 living in families where at least one parent does not have a job, has actively looked for work in the past 4 weeks, and is currently available for work. Parents who are not working because they are not in the labor force are not considered unemployed. This analysis is based on children under age 18 who live with at least one parent and are not currently married. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent is unemployed. For children living in married-couple families, this means that either one or both parents are unemployed. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.

Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full or part time) and not employed (full or part time). This measure is sometimes referred to as “Idle Teens” or “Disconnected Youth.” The 2009 estimate for this measure should not be compared to estimates prior to 2008 because of substantial changes made to the 2008 American Community Survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates (ages 16–19) is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure. The measure used here is defined as a “status dropout” rate. Inclusion of the group quarters population to the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2006 could have a noticeable impact on the universe population for this age group. Therefore, the 2009 ACS estimate might not be fully comparable to estimates prior to 2006. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19) is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother’s place of residence, rather than the place of the birth. **SOURCES:** **Birth Statistics:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.

Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19) is the number of deaths from all causes to teens between ages 15 and 19, per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred. **SOURCES:** **Death Statistics:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.