

## SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

**O**ur future success as a nation depends on the degree to which we ensure that all of our children have the opportunity to thrive. The broad array of data we present each year in the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is intended to illuminate the status of America's children and to assess trends in their well-being. By updating the assessment every year, KIDS COUNT provides ongoing benchmarks that can be used to see how states have advanced or regressed over time. Readers can also use KIDS COUNT to compare the status of children in their state with those in other states across several dimensions of child well-being.

Although the 10 measures used in KIDS COUNT to rank states can hardly capture the full range of conditions shaping children's lives, we believe these indicators possess three important attributes: (1) They reflect a wide range of factors affecting the well-being of children, such as health, adequacy of income, and educational attainment. (2) They reflect experiences across a range of developmental stages—from birth through early adulthood. (3) They permit legitimate comparisons because they are consistent across states and over time. Research shows that the 10 KIDS COUNT key indicators capture most of the yearly variation in child well-being reflected in other indices that utilize a much larger number of indicators. For more information about the criteria used to select KIDS COUNT indicators, see page 71.

The 10 indicators used to rank states reflect a developmental perspective on childhood and underscore our goal to build a world where pregnant women and newborns thrive; infants and young children receive the support they need to enter school prepared to learn; children succeed in school; adolescents

choose healthy behaviors; and young people experience a successful transition into adulthood. In all of these stages of development, young people need the economic and social assistance provided by a strong family and a supportive community.

As the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* has developed over time, some of the indicators used to rank states have changed because we replaced weaker measures with stronger ones. Consequently, comparing rankings in the 2011 *Data Book* to rankings in past *Data Books* does not always provide a perfect assessment of change over time. However, the Appendix (see page 64) shows how states would have ranked in past years if we had employed the same 10 measures used in the 2011 *Data Book*. The table in the Appendix is the best way to assess state changes over time in overall child well-being.

This year's *Data Book* is also accompanied by the KIDS COUNT Data Center, available at [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org). It provides easy online access to hundreds of additional indicators on children and youth for the United States as a whole, as well as for individual states, cities, counties, congressional districts, and school districts across the country.

### National Trends in Child Well-Being

The data on the following pages present a rich but complex picture of American children. After showing improvement in the late 1990s, overall child well-being has stagnated since 2000 (see Table 1). At the national level, 5 of the 10 indicators of child well-being showed that conditions improved since 2000, while child well-being worsened on 3 indicators. The survey tool for 2 indicators, the percent of teens not attending school and not working and the percent of children in families where no parent works full time, year-round, was significantly changed in 2008. Therefore, data cannot be compared to previous years. However, it should be noted that both indicators worsened between 2008 and 2009.

The portrait of change in child well-being since 2000 stands in stark contrast to

**TABLE 1**  
**10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being, National Average: 2000 and 2007/2008/2009**

Key Indicators		2000	2007/2008/2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Percent low-birthweight babies	2008	7.6	8.2	8.0
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2007	6.9	6.8	-1
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2007	22	19	-14
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2007	67	62	-7
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2008	48	41	-15
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates (ages 16–19)	2009	11	6	-45
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	2009	N.A.	9	—
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2009	N.A.	31	—
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009)	2009	17	20	18
Percent of children in single-parent families	2009	31	34	10

N.A. Comparable data not available for 2000 for these indicators.  
 See Definitions and Data Sources, page 68.

Since 2000, the child poverty rate has increased by 18 percent, meaning that the economic recession of the past few years effectively wiped out all of the gains we made in cutting child poverty in the late 1990s.

### State Profiles

The state and U.S. profiles that were included in previous years, comparing the current year's data to 2000, are now available online; please visit [datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/profiles](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/profiles).

the period just prior to 2000. Between 1996 and 2000, 8 of the 10 key indicators used in KIDS COUNT improved, and several improved dramatically. The improvement was experienced by every major racial group and in nearly all of the states.

Pre- and post-2000 trends are clearly illustrated by changes in the rate of child poverty. Between 1994 and 2000, the child poverty rate fell by nearly 30 percent. This was the largest decrease in child poverty since the 1960s. Since 2000, however, the child poverty rate has increased by 18 percent, meaning that the economic recession of the past few years effectively wiped out all of the gains we made in cutting child poverty in the late 1990s. In 2009, 2.4 million more children lived in poverty than in 2000, and many experts predict that the child poverty rate will continue to increase over the next several years.

### Variations in Child Well-Being by Race and Hispanic Origin

Not all children have the same opportunities to succeed. Some children, particularly children of color, face greater barriers to achieving success as they move through childhood and adolescence. Table 2 provides national statistics for the five largest racial and Hispanic origin groups on each of the 10 measures of child well-being used to rank states. To access state-level data for these racial and Hispanic

origin groups for our 10 key indicators, visit the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

Nationally, the differences in child well-being across racial and Hispanic origin lines vary by indicator. Since 2000, gaps in the differences in child well-being along racial and ethnic lines have decreased in some areas—most notably, the high school dropout rate. However, on the whole, non-Hispanic white and Asian and Pacific Islander children continue to have better outcomes on the 10 indicators we track, compared with the other large racial and Hispanic origin groups. Comparative trends and state-level data for the information contained in Table 2 can be found at the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

### KIDS COUNT State Indicators

In the pages that follow, data are presented for the 10 key indicators for all states, including state-level maps of each indicator. The state and U.S. profiles that were included in previous years, comparing the current year's data to 2000, are now available online; please visit [datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/profiles](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/profiles).

Table 3 provides a summary of results from this year's *KIDS COUNT Data Book* and highlights the enormous variation among the states. The rates of the worst states are approximately two to four times those of the best states on every indicator.

The importance of reporting state-level data is underscored by the fact that most measures in most states are statistically significantly different from the national value for each measure. In other words, the national value for a measure does not tell you much about most states. Tables showing the statistical significance of differences among states and changes over time are provided at the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

The 10 key indicators of child well-being used here are all derived from federal government statistical agencies and reflect the best available state-level data for tracking yearly changes in each indicator. It should be noted that the National Center for Health Statistics has not updated the infant, child, and teen

**TABLE 2**  
**10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007/2008/2009**

Key Indicators		NATIONAL AVERAGE	NON-HISPANIC WHITE	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE	HISPANIC/LATINO
Percent low-birthweight babies	2008	8.2	7.2	13.4	8.2	7.4	7.0
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2007	6.8	5.6	13.2	3.8	8.7	5.7
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2007	19	17	27	14	28	18
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2007	62	58	83	33	87	58
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2008	41	26	63	16	58	78
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates (ages 16–19)	2009	6	4	8	3	13	10
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	2009	9	7	13	5	17	12
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2009	31	24	47	22	49	38
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009)	2009	20	12	36	13	35	31
Percent of children in single-parent families	2009	34	24	67	16	53	40

**NOTE** See indicator pages 40–61 for notes on how race is defined. See Definitions and Data Sources, page 68.

**TABLE 3**  
**10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being, Highest and Lowest Ranking States: 2007/2008/2009**

Key Indicators		HIGHEST RANKING VALUE	HIGHEST RANKING STATE(S)	LOWEST RANKING VALUE	LOWEST RANKING STATE
Percent low-birthweight babies	2008	6.0	Alaska	11.8	Mississippi
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2007	4.8	Washington	10.0	Mississippi
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2007	9	Rhode Island	34	Mississippi
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2007	35	Vermont	100	Alaska
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2008	20	Massachusetts, New Hampshire	66	Mississippi
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates (ages 16–19)	2009	3	New Hampshire, New Jersey	11	Nevada
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	2009	5	New Hampshire	15	West Virginia
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2009	21	North Dakota	39	Mississippi
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009)	2009	11	New Hampshire	31	Mississippi
Percent of children in single-parent families	2009	18	Utah	48	Mississippi

See Definitions and Data Sources, page 68.

mortality rates since the publication of the 2010 *Data Book*. Therefore the 2007 data appear for these indicators in the 2011 *Data Book*.

However, it is important to recognize that many of the indicators used here are derived from samples, and like all sample data, they contain some random error. Other measures (the Infant Mortality Rate and the Child Death Rate, for example) are based on relatively small numbers of events in some states and may exhibit some random fluctuation from year to year. We urge readers to focus on relatively large differences—both across states and over time within a state. Small differences, within a state over time or between states, may simply reflect random fluctuations, rather than real changes in the well-being of children. Assessing trends by looking at changes over a longer period of time is more reliable. Historical data for each state are available on the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

We include data for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico in the *Data Book*, but not in our state rankings. Because they are significantly different from any state, the comparisons are not meaningful. It is more useful to look at changes for these geographies over time, or to compare the District with other large cities. Data for many child well-being indicators for the 50 largest cities (including the District of Columbia) are available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Information for the U.S. Virgin Islands was not available in time to be included in this year's publication, but limited information is available on the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* utilizes rates and percentages because that is the best way to compare states to each other and to assess changes over time within a state. However, our focus on rates and percentages may mask the magnitude of some of the problems that are examined in this report. The number of events or number of children reflected in each of the national rates for the 10 key indicators used to rank states are

provided on corresponding indicator pages. These data underscore the fact that thousands of children die every year, and millions are at risk because of poverty, family structure, lack of parental employment, or risky behavior.

It is our hope that the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* and the accompanying KIDS COUNT Data Center will help raise the visibility of children's issues on the national agenda and serve as a tool for advocates, policymakers, and others to make better decisions. We believe that good data are always needed to develop the most effective policies and practices for children and their families, but they are even more critical at this time in our nation's history, when families are facing economic uncertainties about their future well-being. At the same time, states faced with huge budget shortfalls are making tough decisions about how to deal with lost revenue. It's more important than ever that we use the best data available to monitor the impact of these decisions on the life outcomes for millions of our nation's most vulnerable children.

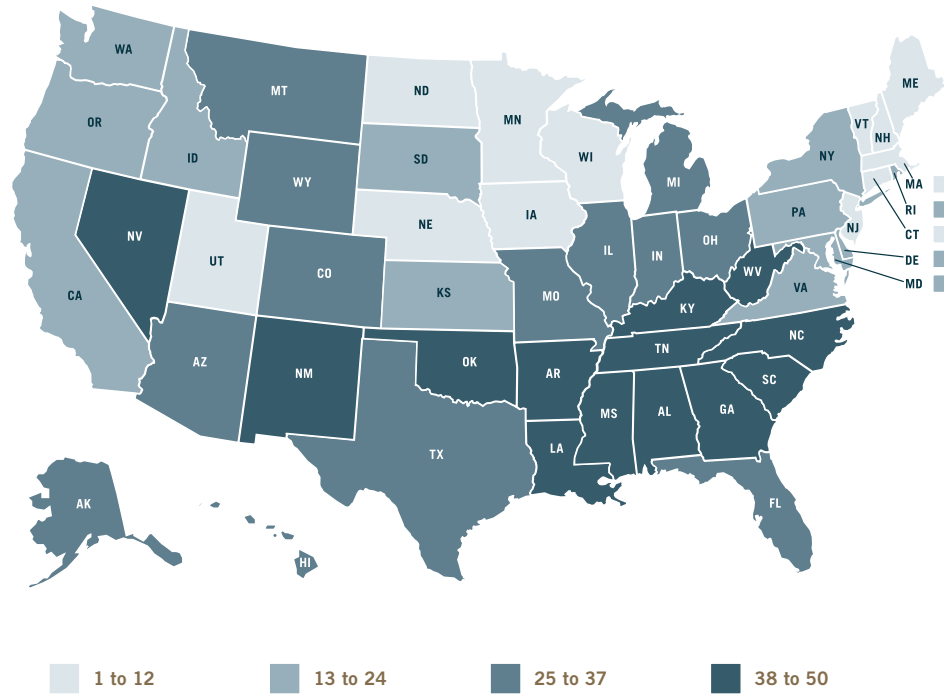
**It is our hope that the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* and the accompanying KIDS COUNT Data Center will help raise the visibility of children's issues on the national agenda and serve as a tool for advocates, policymakers, and others to make better decisions.**

## Ranking States on Composite Index

Data from all 10 key indicators are used to develop a composite index of child well-being for each state. The Overall Rank Table and Map show how states rank, based on the 10-item index. The state that ranks highest (best), based on the composite index, is New Hampshire. Minnesota ranks second, and Massachusetts ranks third. The three states at the bottom of the ranking are Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

The Overall Rank Map also reflects some regional overtones. The New England states and a group of states in the Northern Plains all rank relatively high. Except for Maine and Rhode Island, all of the New England states rank in the top 10. In the Northern Plains, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota are all ranked in the top 10. At the other end of the spectrum, states in the South (both Southeast and Southwest) and Appalachia dominate the lower part of the ranking. The 10 states with the lowest Overall Rank in terms of child well-being are all located in these regions.

## KIDS COUNT Overall Rank: 2011



Rank	State
1	New Hampshire
2	Minnesota
3	Massachusetts
4	Vermont
5	New Jersey
6	Connecticut
7	Utah
8	Iowa
9	Nebraska
10	North Dakota
11	Maine
12	Wisconsin
13	Washington

Rank	State
14	Virginia
15	New York
16	California
17	Rhode Island
18	Oregon
19	Kansas
20	Pennsylvania
21	South Dakota
22	Idaho
23	Maryland
24	Delaware
25	Colorado
26	Hawaii

Rank	State
27	Illinois
28	Wyoming
29	Ohio
30	Michigan
31	Indiana
32	Alaska
33	Montana
34	Missouri
35	Texas
36	Florida
37	Arizona
38	North Carolina
39	Tennessee

Rank	State
40	Nevada
41	Kentucky
42	Georgia
43	Oklahoma
44	West Virginia
45	South Carolina
46	New Mexico
47	Arkansas
48	Alabama
49	Louisiana
50	Mississippi
N.R.	District of Columbia
N.R.	Puerto Rico

N.R. Not Ranked.

Find more information at:  
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# Percent Low-Birthweight Babies

The birth of a baby reminds us of the potential that exists in every new generation. Yet, some newborns face stiffer odds than other babies to thrive. Babies weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth have a high probability of experiencing developmental problems and short- and long-term disabilities and are at greater risk of dying within the first year of life. Although recent increases in multiple births have strongly influenced the rise in rates of low-birthweight babies, rates have also been higher among singleton deliveries. Smoking, prenatal nutrition, poverty, stress, infections, and violence can increase the risk of a baby being born with low birthweight.

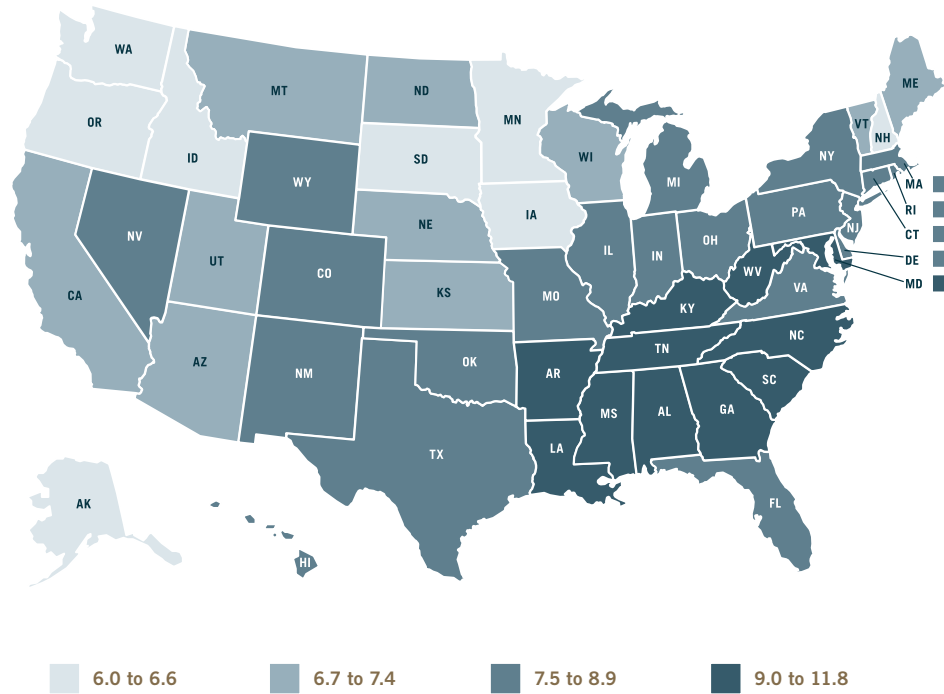
- » Nationally, low-birthweight babies represented 8.2 percent of all live births in 2008, decreasing slightly from its four-decade high of 8.3 percent in 2006.
- » While the upward trend appears to have halted, the rate in 2008 is still 8 percent above the rate in 2000.
- » Between 2000 and 2008, the percent of low-birthweight babies worsened in 46 states; remained unchanged in 2 states; and only showed some improvement in Delaware, Idaho, and the District of Columbia.
- » Although Black/African-American babies are much more likely to be born low birthweight than other racial and Hispanic origin groups, the percent of African-American babies born with a low birthweight has declined slightly over the past two years—following the national trend.

## Percent Low-Birthweight Babies by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2008

National Average	8.2
Non-Hispanic White	7.2
Black/African American	13.4
Asian and Pacific Islander	8.2
American Indian and Alaskan Native	7.4
Hispanic/Latino	7.0

**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

## Percent Low-Birthweight Babies: 2008\*



\*Babies weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth.

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Alaska	6.0	13	Vermont	7.0	26	Oklahoma	8.3	40	North Carolina	9.1
2	Oregon	6.1	13	Wisconsin	7.0	26	Pennsylvania	8.3	41	Arkansas	9.2
3	Washington	6.3	16	Arizona	7.1	26	Virginia	8.3	41	Kentucky	9.2
4	Minnesota	6.4	17	Kansas	7.2	26	Wyoming	8.3	41	Maryland	9.2
5	Idaho	6.5	18	Montana	7.4	31	Illinois	8.4	41	Tennessee	9.2
5	New Hampshire	6.5	19	Massachusetts	7.8	31	New Jersey	8.4	45	West Virginia	9.5
5	South Dakota	6.5	20	Rhode Island	7.9	31	Texas	8.4	46	Georgia	9.6
8	Iowa	6.6	21	Connecticut	8.0	34	Delaware	8.5	47	South Carolina	9.9
9	Maine	6.7	21	Nevada	8.0	34	New Mexico	8.5	48	Alabama	10.6
10	California	6.8	23	Hawaii	8.1	36	Michigan	8.6	49	Louisiana	10.8
10	North Dakota	6.8	23	Missouri	8.1	36	Ohio	8.6	50	Mississippi	11.8
10	Utah	6.8	25	New York	8.2	38	Florida	8.8	N.R.	District of Columbia	10.5
13	Nebraska	7.0	26	Indiana	8.3	39	Colorado	8.9	N.R.	Puerto Rico	12.5

N.R. Not Ranked.

Find more information at:  
[datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011)

# Infant Mortality Rate

The Infant Mortality Rate (deaths to persons less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births) is often used to measure the overall health of a population. It is related to maternal health, public health practices, socioeconomic conditions, and the ability to access appropriate health care for infants and pregnant women. Problems related to short gestation, low birthweight, congenital malformations, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) are the leading causes of infant deaths. After reaching the lowest rate since 1990 in 2006, the Infant Mortality Rate increased in 2007.

- » Between 2000 and 2007, the United States lost 225,703 babies under age 1. During 2007, 29,138 infants under age 1 were lost, or about 80 infants each day. This represents 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- » Between 2000 and 2007, the Infant Mortality Rate improved in 30 states and deteriorated in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Connecticut, Florida, and Oklahoma saw no change in the indicator.
- » The Infant Mortality Rate varies widely across states, the best state-level rate being half that of the worst state. In 2007, rates ranged from a low of 4.8 per 1,000 live births in Washington to a high of 10.0 per 1,000 in Mississippi.
- » Although the United States spends more on health care than any other industrialized country, the *Health, United States, 2009* report found that the United States ranked 28th among 32 industrialized countries, right behind Slovakia (6.6 per 1,000 live births), for its Infant Mortality Rate.

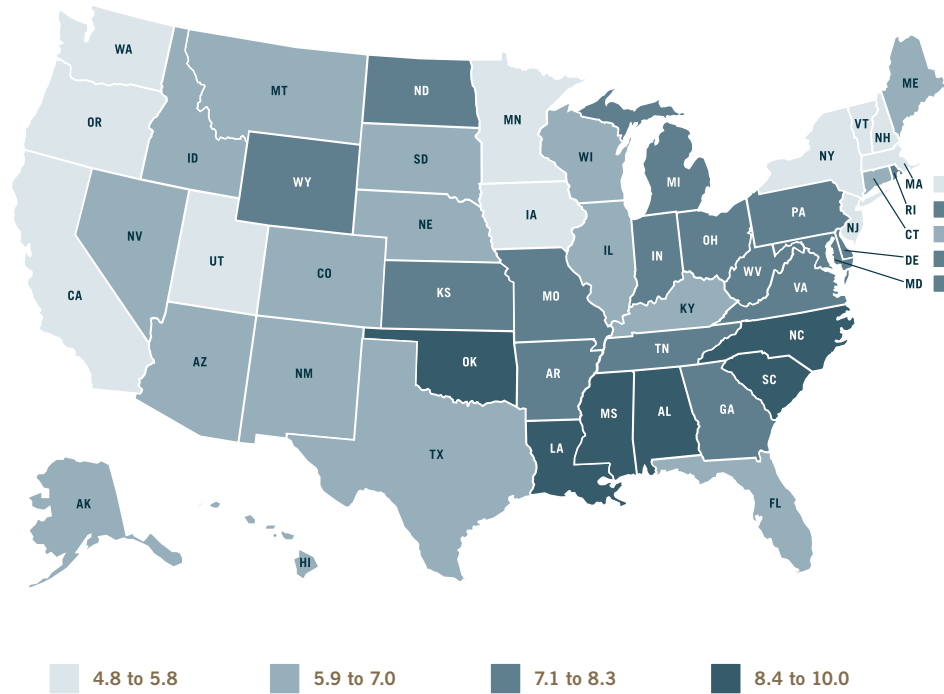
**Infant Mortality Rate  
(deaths per 1,000 live births)  
by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007**

National Average	6.8
Non-Hispanic White	5.6
Black/African American	13.2
Asian and Pacific Islander	3.8
American Indian and Alaskan Native	8.7
Hispanic/Latino	5.7

**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

**NOTE** Infant mortality data for 2008 were not available for inclusion in this report.

## Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births): 2007



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Washington	4.8	13	New Mexico	6.3	27	Arizona	6.9	40	Kansas	7.9
2	Massachusetts	4.9	13	Texas	6.3	28	Florida	7.0	40	Michigan	7.9
3	Utah	5.1	16	Montana	6.4	29	Wyoming	7.3	42	Georgia	8.0
3	Vermont	5.1	16	Nevada	6.4	30	Rhode Island	7.4	42	Maryland	8.0
5	California	5.2	16	South Dakota	6.4	31	Delaware	7.5	44	Tennessee	8.3
5	New Jersey	5.2	19	Alaska	6.5	31	Missouri	7.5	45	North Carolina	8.5
7	New Hampshire	5.4	19	Hawaii	6.5	31	North Dakota	7.5	45	Oklahoma	8.5
8	Iowa	5.5	19	Wisconsin	6.5	31	West Virginia	7.5	47	South Carolina	8.6
8	Minnesota	5.5	22	Connecticut	6.6	35	Indiana	7.6	48	Louisiana	9.2
10	New York	5.6	23	Illinois	6.7	35	Pennsylvania	7.6	49	Alabama	9.9
11	Oregon	5.8	23	Kentucky	6.7	37	Arkansas	7.7	50	Mississippi	10.0
12	Colorado	6.1	25	Idaho	6.8	37	Ohio	7.7	N.R.	District of Columbia	13.1
13	Maine	6.3	25	Nebraska	6.8	39	Virginia	7.8	N.R.	Puerto Rico	8.4

N.R. Not Ranked.

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# Child Death Rate

The Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) reflects the physical health of children, maternal health, access to health care, community environment, use of safety practices, and the level of adult supervision children receive. Advances in medical care and declines in motor vehicle accidents contribute to the declining Child Death Rate. Accidents are the leading cause of death for this age group. Deaths from motor vehicle accidents accounted for 17 percent of child deaths in 2007. Nearly half of the children under age 15 who died in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt or other restraint. Many of the accidental deaths can be prevented by using seat belts and safety seats and providing adequate supervision. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports that for each injury-related death in 2007, there were 1,540 injury-related emergency room visits and about 22 hospital admissions for children who survived their injuries.

- » In 2007, an average of 30 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died each day in the United States, totaling 10,850 children, or 19 deaths per 100,000.
- » Between 2000 and 2007, the Child Death Rate decreased in 40 states and the District of Columbia; was unchanged in 6; and increased in Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Delaware saw the largest decrease, while Hawaii saw the largest increase.
- » The Child Death Rate in 2007 ranged from 9 per 100,000 in Rhode Island to 34 per 100,000 in Mississippi.
- » The Child Death Rates for American Indians and Alaskan Natives and African Americans are the highest of all major racial and ethnic groups.

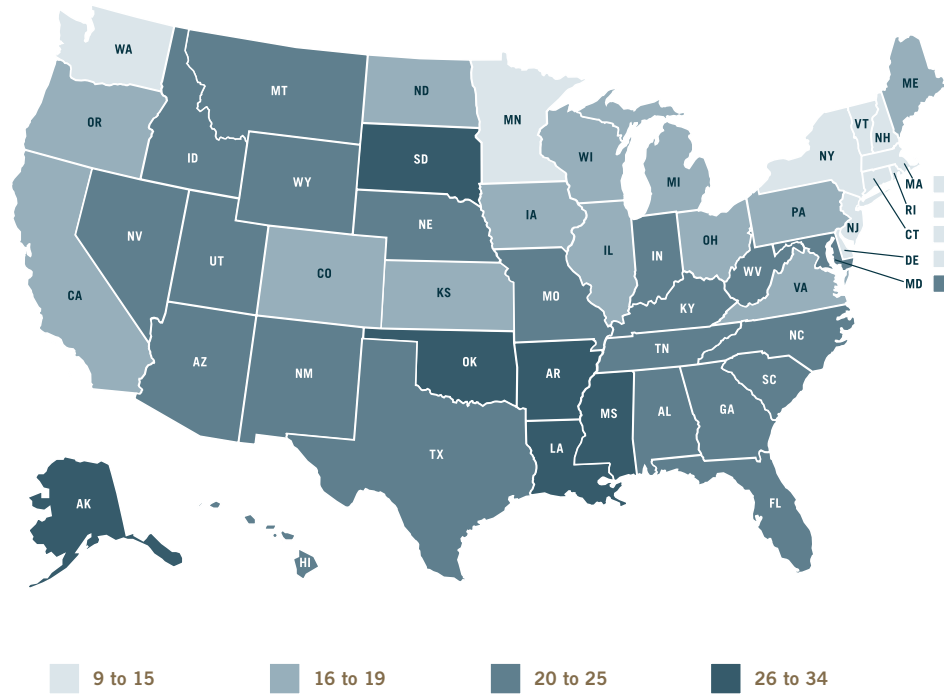
## Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007

National Average	19
Non-Hispanic White	17
Black/African American	27
Asian and Pacific Islander	14
American Indian and Alaskan Native	28
Hispanic/Latino	18

**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

**NOTE** Child death data for 2008 were not available for inclusion in this report.

## Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14): 2007



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Rhode Island	9	14	Oregon	17	27	Arizona	21	40	Alabama	23
2	Delaware	10	15	Michigan	18	27	Florida	21	40	Missouri	23
3	Connecticut	12	15	Ohio	18	27	Georgia	21	42	New Mexico	24
3	Massachusetts	12	15	Pennsylvania	18	27	Hawaii	21	42	West Virginia	24
3	Vermont	12	15	Virginia	18	27	Indiana	21	44	South Carolina	25
6	Minnesota	15	19	Illinois	19	27	Maryland	21	45	South Dakota	27
6	New Hampshire	15	19	Iowa	19	27	North Carolina	21	46	Arkansas	28
6	New Jersey	15	19	Kansas	19	27	Texas	21	47	Louisiana	29
6	New York	15	19	North Dakota	19	27	Wyoming	21	47	Oklahoma	29
6	Washington	15	19	Wisconsin	19	36	Idaho	22	49	Alaska	31
11	California	16	24	Nebraska	20	36	Kentucky	22	50	Mississippi	34
11	Colorado	16	24	Tennessee	20	36	Montana	22	N.R.	District of Columbia	29
11	Maine	16	24	Utah	20	36	Nevada	22	N.R.	Puerto Rico	16

N.R. Not Ranked.

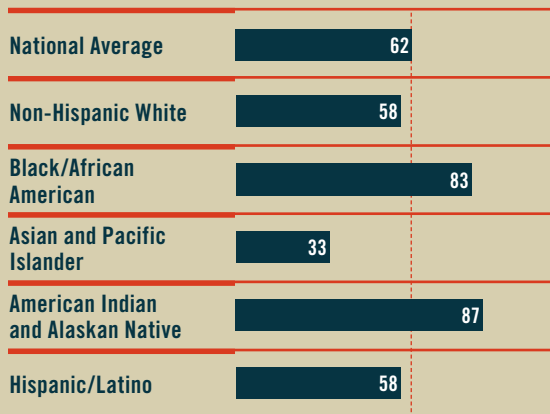
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# Teen Death Rate

As people move into their middle and late teenage years, they encounter new risks that can cost them their life. In 2007, accidents, homicides, and suicides accounted for 77 percent of deaths to teens ages 15 to 19 in the United States. Accidents account for at least three times as many teen deaths as any other cause, including homicide. Most lethal accidents are automobile accidents. In 2007, 6,493 teens died due to accidents (76 percent of them, or 4,939 deaths, were due to motor vehicle accidents), 2,224 teen deaths were due to homicide, and 1,481 teen deaths were due to suicide.

- » In 2007, 13,299 adolescents ages 15 to 19 died. This is the equivalent of the number of passengers on 38 jumbo jets. Virtually all of these deaths were preventable.
- » The Teen Death Rate declined from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 62 deaths in 2007. The Teen Death Rate had been steadily declining between 1990 and 1998, when progress began to slow. In 2007, the Teen Death Rate was only slightly lower than in 1998.
- » While there was a decline in teen deaths due to accidents and suicides, between 2000 and 2007, homicides increased by 11 percent.
- » Between 2000 and 2007, the Teen Death Rate declined in 40 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 9 states, and remained unchanged in Ohio.
- » In 2007, American Indian (87 per 100,000) and African-American (83 per 100,000) teens had the highest death rates, while Asian and Pacific Islander (33 per 100,000) youth had the lowest.

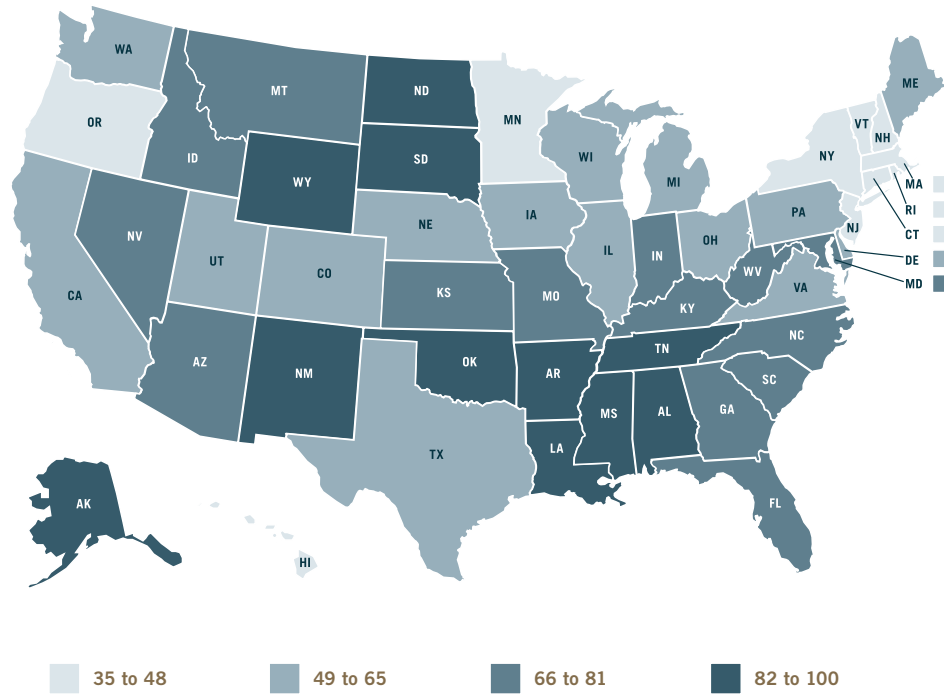
**Teen Death Rate**  
(deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)  
by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2007



**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

**NOTE** Teen death data for 2008 were not available for inclusion in this report.

## Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19): 2007



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Vermont	35	14	Maine	54	26	North Carolina	67	40	Oklahoma	83
2	Hawaii	39	15	Iowa	56	28	Indiana	68	40	South Dakota	83
2	New York	39	16	Delaware	57	29	Kansas	69	42	Tennessee	84
2	Rhode Island	39	17	Colorado	58	30	West Virginia	70	43	Wyoming	86
5	Minnesota	43	17	Ohio	58	31	Nevada	71	44	North Dakota	89
5	New Hampshire	43	19	Michigan	59	32	Florida	72	45	Alabama	93
7	Connecticut	44	19	Pennsylvania	59	33	Georgia	73	45	Arkansas	93
7	Massachusetts	44	19	Utah	59	34	Kentucky	74	47	Louisiana	94
7	New Jersey	44	22	Illinois	60	35	Idaho	77	48	New Mexico	96
10	Oregon	48	23	Texas	63	36	Arizona	80	49	Mississippi	98
11	Washington	51	24	Wisconsin	64	36	Missouri	80	50	Alaska	100
12	California	52	25	Nebraska	65	36	Montana	80	N.R.	District of Columbia	92
13	Virginia	53	26	Maryland	67	39	South Carolina	81	N.R.	Puerto Rico	67

N.R. Not Ranked.

Find more information at:  
[datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011)

# Teen Birth Rate

As Americans, we believe that every child should have a shot at achieving their full potential: getting a good education; securing a job that pays well; and, when they are ready, raising a family of their own. But not all children have these opportunities. Teenage childbearing can have long-term negative effects on both the adolescent mother and the newborn. Babies born to teen mothers are at higher risk of being low birthweight and preterm. They are also far more likely to be born into families with limited educational and economic resources, which function as barriers to future success. In 2006, the United States saw the first increase in the Teen Birth Rate in more than a decade, a rise that continued through 2007. After the two-year increase, in 2008, the Teen Birth Rate declined to 41 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19.

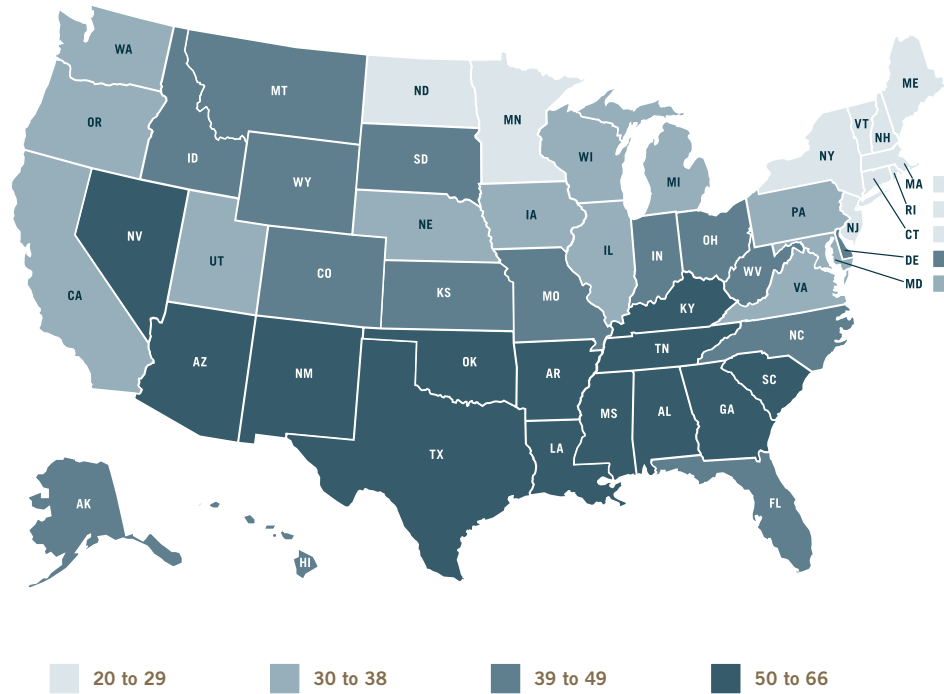
- » In 2008, there were 434,758 babies born to females ages 15 to 19. That represents about 1,191 births to teens each day.
- » Between 2000 and 2008, the Teen Birth Rate decreased in 41 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 7, and was unchanged in Iowa and Kansas.
- » Among the states, the Teen Birth Rate in 2008 ranged from a low of 20 per 1,000 in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to a high of 66 per 1,000 in Mississippi.
- » The Teen Birth Rate for Latinos remains the highest across the largest racial and Hispanic origin groups, at nearly twice the national average. Although it remains high, the 2008 rate for births to Latino teens is the lowest it has been in a decade.
- » The United States has the highest Teen Birth Rate among comparable countries. The U.S. Teen Birth Rate is nearly twice as high as that in the United Kingdom (26.7 per 1,000) which has the highest Teen Birth Rate in Europe. In addition, the U.S. rate is more than triple the rate in Canada (14.1 per 1,000).

## Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2008

National Average	41
Non-Hispanic White	26
Black/African American	63
Asian and Pacific Islander	16
American Indian and Alaskan Native	58
Hispanic/Latino	78

**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

## Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19): 2008



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Massachusetts	20	13	Michigan	33	25	Ohio	41	39	Nevada	53
1	New Hampshire	20	13	Virginia	33	28	Hawaii	42	39	South Carolina	53
3	Vermont	21	16	Iowa	34	29	Colorado	43	42	Louisiana	54
4	Connecticut	23	17	Utah	35	29	Florida	43	43	Arizona	56
5	New Jersey	24	17	Washington	35	31	Indiana	44	43	Kentucky	56
6	New York	25	19	Nebraska	37	32	Missouri	45	43	Tennessee	56
7	Maine	26	19	Oregon	37	33	Kansas	46	46	Arkansas	62
8	Minnesota	27	21	California	38	34	Alaska	47	46	Oklahoma	62
9	North Dakota	29	21	Illinois	38	35	North Carolina	49	48	Texas	63
9	Rhode Island	29	23	Delaware	40	35	West Virginia	49	49	New Mexico	64
11	Pennsylvania	31	23	South Dakota	40	35	Wyoming	49	50	Mississippi	66
11	Wisconsin	31	25	Idaho	41	38	Georgia	52	N.R.	District of Columbia	51
13	Maryland	33	25	Montana	41	39	Alabama	53	N.R.	Puerto Rico	55

N.R. Not Ranked.

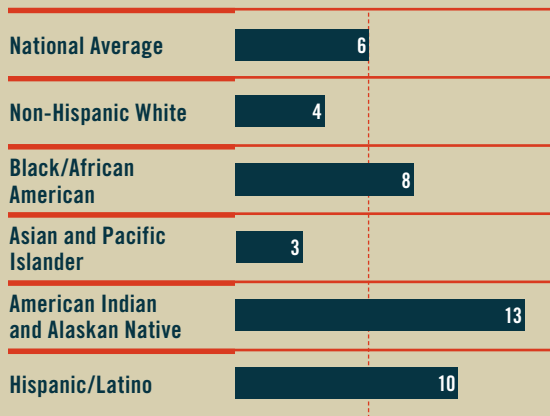
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# Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates

As America moves further into the 21st century, advanced skills and technical knowledge will be required for a healthy economy. We have a responsibility to ensure that our future workforce can compete on a global scale. Graduating from high school is critical for obtaining post-secondary education and getting a good job. Adolescents who don't complete high school will find it difficult to achieve financial success in adulthood. In 2009, the median earnings for someone without a high school diploma (\$18,400) was less than half that of someone with a bachelor's degree (\$47,500), and less than one-third that of an individual with a graduate degree (\$62,300).

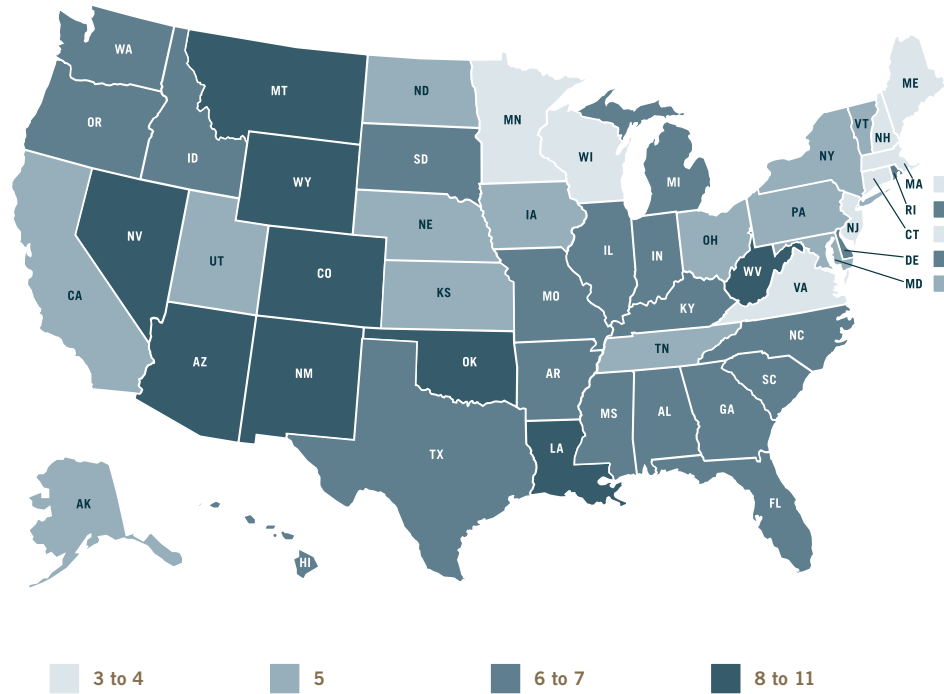
- » In 2009, about 1.1 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 were not in school and had not graduated from high school.
- » Although the number continues to be unacceptably high, the likelihood that teens will not be in school and will not graduate has dropped. The rate in 2009 (6 percent) was slightly more than half the rate in 2000 (11 percent).
- » Between 2000 and 2009, the rate fell in 45 states and the District of Columbia; increased in Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, and West Virginia; and was unchanged in Iowa.
- » In 2009, the Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates (ages 16–19) ranged from a low of 3 percent in New Hampshire and New Jersey to a high of 11 percent in Nevada.
- » Although large gaps still exist, more teens across all five of the largest racial and ethnic groups stayed in school and obtained a high school diploma or GED in 2009 than in 2000. However, since 2006, American Indians have seen an increase in the percentage of teens that left school and did not receive a high school diploma.

**Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates (ages 16–19) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**



**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino. Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

## Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates (ages 16–19): 2009



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	3	9	Nebraska	5	22	South Dakota	6	29	South Carolina	7
1	New Jersey	3	9	New York	5	22	Washington	6	29	Texas	7
3	Connecticut	4	9	North Dakota	5	29	Alabama	7	42	Arizona	8
3	Maine	4	9	Ohio	5	29	Arkansas	7	42	Colorado	8
3	Massachusetts	4	9	Pennsylvania	5	29	Florida	7	42	Louisiana	8
3	Minnesota	4	9	Tennessee	5	29	Georgia	7	42	Oklahoma	8
3	Virginia	4	9	Utah	5	29	Hawaii	7	42	Wyoming	8
3	Wisconsin	4	9	Vermont	5	29	Indiana	7	47	Montana	9
9	Alaska	5	22	Delaware	6	29	Kentucky	7	47	New Mexico	9
9	California	5	22	Idaho	6	29	Mississippi	7	47	West Virginia	9
9	Iowa	5	22	Illinois	6	29	Missouri	7	50	Nevada	11
9	Kansas	5	22	Michigan	6	29	North Carolina	7	N.R.	District of Columbia	7
9	Maryland	5	22	Oregon	6	29	Rhode Island	7	N.R.	Puerto Rico	8

N.R. Not Ranked.

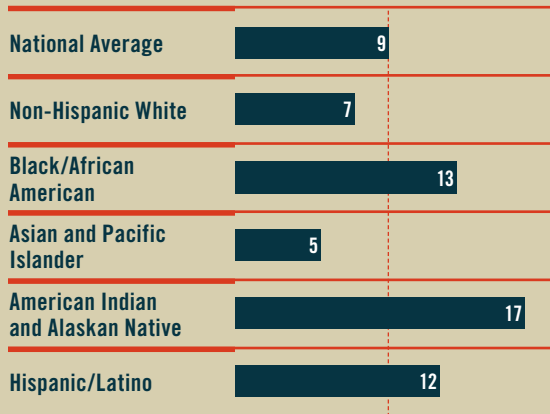
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# Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working

School and work help teens acquire the knowledge and skills they need to become productive members of society. Teens who leave school and do not become part of the workforce are at risk of experiencing negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood. The Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (sometimes called “Idle Teens”) reflects young people ages 16 to 19 who are not engaged in school or the workforce. Whereas those who have dropped out of school are clearly vulnerable, many young persons who have finished school but are not working are also at a disadvantage in achieving economic success in adulthood.

- » In 2009, about 1.6 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 were neither enrolled in school nor working. This is 149,000 more youth than in 2008.
- » Between 2008 and 2009, the Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) increased in 35 states and the District of Columbia; remained unchanged in 12 states; and decreased in Arkansas, Delaware, and Maine.
- » In 2009, the Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working ranged from a low of 5 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 15 percent in West Virginia.
- » In 2009, American Indian, African-American, and Hispanic teens were considerably more likely to be neither in school nor working than their non-Hispanic white and Asian counterparts.

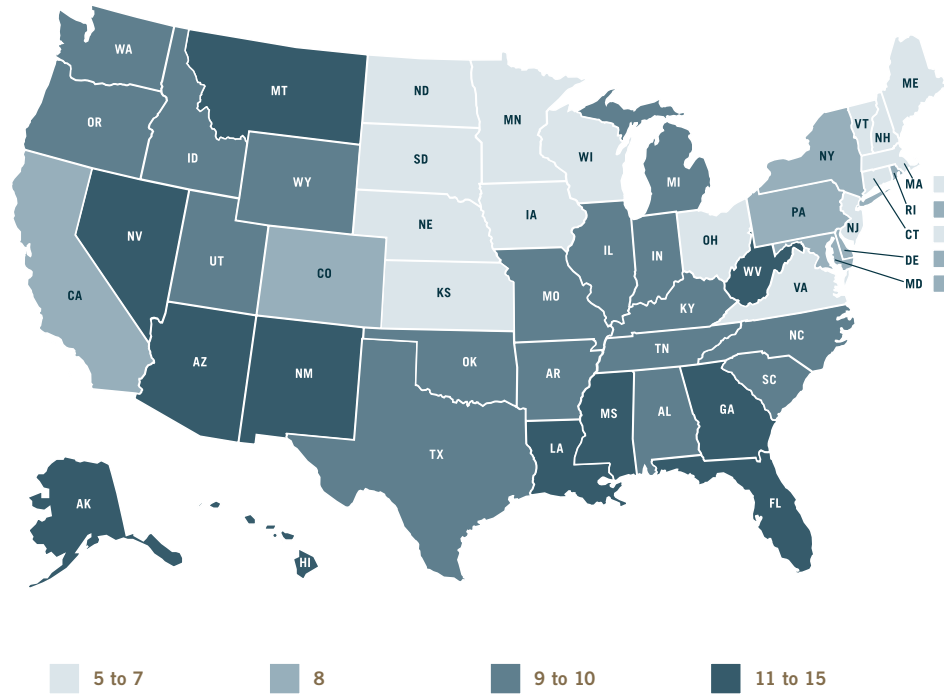
## Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009



**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino. Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

**NOTE** Significant changes were made to the 2008 American Community Survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons were not made to estimates from previous years.

## Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19): 2009



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	5	8	Vermont	7	23	Missouri	9	40	Arizona	11
2	Connecticut	6	8	Virginia	7	23	Oklahoma	9	40	Florida	11
2	Iowa	6	16	California	8	23	Oregon	9	40	Louisiana	11
2	Massachusetts	6	16	Colorado	8	23	Utah	9	40	Montana	11
2	Minnesota	6	16	Delaware	8	23	Washington	9	40	New Mexico	11
2	Nebraska	6	16	Maryland	8	23	Wyoming	9	45	Alaska	12
2	Wisconsin	6	16	New York	8	33	Alabama	10	45	Georgia	12
8	Kansas	7	16	Pennsylvania	8	33	Arkansas	10	45	Hawaii	12
8	Maine	7	16	Rhode Island	8	33	Kentucky	10	45	Mississippi	12
8	New Jersey	7	23	Idaho	9	33	North Carolina	10	49	Nevada	13
8	North Dakota	7	23	Illinois	9	33	South Carolina	10	50	West Virginia	15
8	Ohio	7	23	Indiana	9	33	Tennessee	10	N.R.	District of Columbia	10
8	South Dakota	7	23	Michigan	9	33	Texas	10	N.R.	Puerto Rico	15

N.R. Not Ranked.

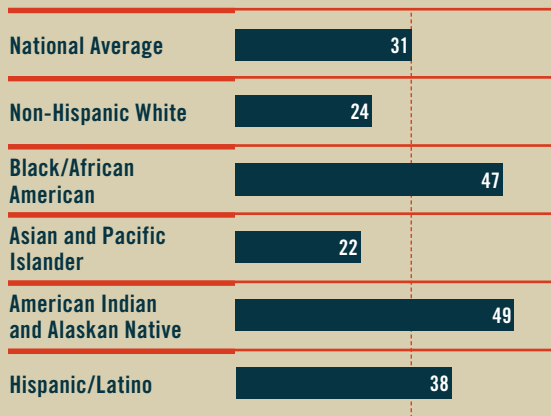
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# Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment

Children thrive when parents have the opportunity to earn income sufficient to support their family. The recent recession has hit families with children hard, especially those who were already vulnerable. Children living in families that “lack secure parental employment” have higher poverty rates and are more likely to lack access to the health and family benefits that a stable job provides. This reality puts children at higher risk of poor health and educational outcomes. Although there are significant benefits when a parent works, having one parent employed full time, year-round is not a guarantee for economic security. Nearly one of two (48 percent) children living in families maintained by two parents who were living below the poverty line had at least one parent working year-round, full time.

- » In 2009, 23.1 million children in the United States lived in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment.
- » The Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment increased from 27 percent in 2008 to 31 percent in 2009. This increase represents 2.9 million more children living in families without secure parental employment.
- » Between 2008 and 2009, 48 states and the District of Columbia saw an increase in this indicator, while Oklahoma and Vermont saw no change. Nevada was the state with the largest increase.
- » Among the states, the 2009 figures ranged from a low of 21 percent in North Dakota to a high of 39 percent in Mississippi.
- » In 2009, nearly 1 of every 2 American Indian and African-American children lived without securely employed parents compared to 1 of every 4 non-Hispanic white and Asian children.

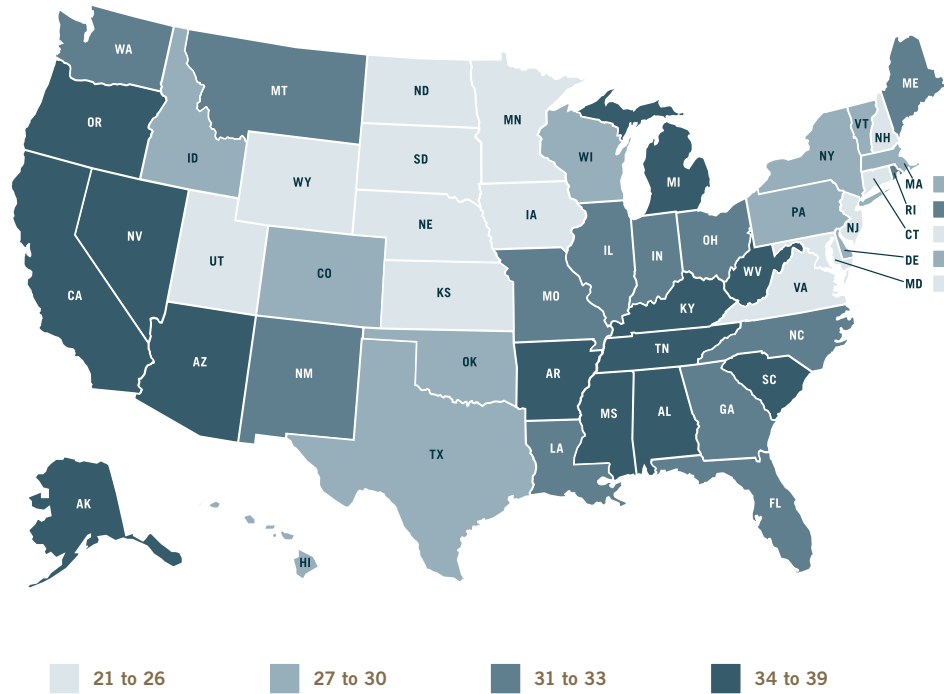
**Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**



**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino. Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

**NOTE** Significant changes were made to the 2008 American Community Survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked. Due to these changes in methodology, comparisons were not made to estimates from previous years.

## Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment: 2009



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	21	14	Wisconsin	27	25	Missouri	31	38	California	34
2	Iowa	22	15	Colorado	28	25	Rhode Island	31	38	Nevada	34
2	Nebraska	22	15	Delaware	28	25	Washington	31	38	Oregon	34
2	Utah	22	15	Massachusetts	28	30	Florida	32	38	South Carolina	34
5	Maryland	24	15	Vermont	28	30	Georgia	32	44	Alabama	35
5	New Hampshire	24	19	Idaho	29	30	Indiana	32	44	Tennessee	35
5	South Dakota	24	19	Oklahoma	29	30	New Mexico	32	44	West Virginia	35
8	Kansas	25	19	Pennsylvania	29	30	Ohio	32	47	Alaska	36
8	Minnesota	25	22	Hawaii	30	35	Louisiana	33	47	Michigan	36
8	New Jersey	25	22	New York	30	35	Montana	33	49	Kentucky	38
8	Virginia	25	22	Texas	30	35	North Carolina	33	50	Mississippi	39
8	Wyoming	25	25	Illinois	31	38	Arizona	34	N.R.	District of Columbia	44
13	Connecticut	26	25	Maine	31	38	Arkansas	34	N.R.	Puerto Rico	52

N.R. Not Ranked.

Find more information at:  
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# Percent of Children in Poverty

It is critical that we as a nation ensure that all children have the opportunity to become productive members of society. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to experience health and behavioral problems, face difficulty in school, become teen parents, and earn less or be unemployed as adults. Such factors are barriers to future economic success and stability. The Percent of Children in Poverty is perhaps the most global and widely used indicator of child well-being. Our data are based on the official poverty measure as determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The 2009 poverty line was \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children.

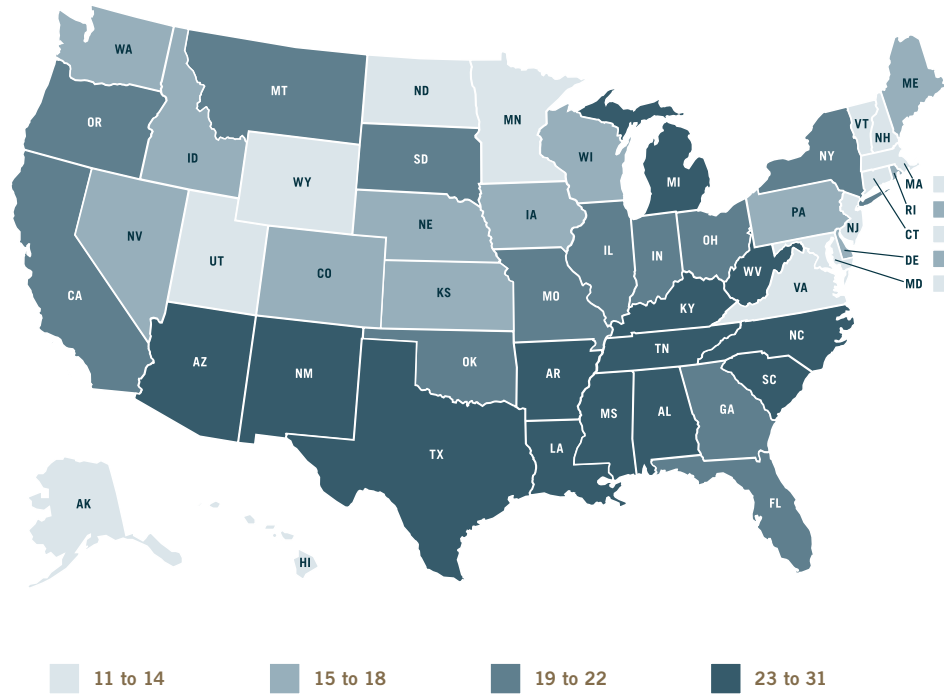
- » In 2009, 20 percent of children (14.7 million) were poor, up from 17 percent in 2000. This represents about 2.5 million more children living in poverty in 2009 than in 2000.
- » Between 2000 and 2009, child poverty increased in 38 states, decreased in 7 states and the District of Columbia, and remained unchanged in 5.
- » Among the states, the child poverty rate for 2009 ranged from a low of 11 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 31 percent in Mississippi.
- » Between 2000 and 2009 poverty increased among non-Hispanic white, African-American, American Indian, and Hispanic children, while declining among Asian children. African-American, American Indian, and Hispanic children continue to be more likely to live in poverty than white and Asian children.

**Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**

National Average	20
Non-Hispanic White	12
Black/African American	36
Asian and Pacific Islander	13
American Indian and Alaskan Native	35
Hispanic/Latino	31

**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino. Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

## Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children in 2009): 2009



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	11	14	Nebraska	15	26	Oregon	19	38	North Carolina	23
2	Connecticut	12	15	Delaware	16	26	South Dakota	19	41	Louisiana	24
2	Maryland	12	15	Iowa	16	29	California	20	41	South Carolina	24
2	Utah	12	15	Washington	16	29	Indiana	20	41	Tennessee	24
5	Alaska	13	18	Colorado	17	29	New York	20	41	Texas	24
5	Massachusetts	13	18	Maine	17	32	Florida	21	41	West Virginia	24
5	New Jersey	13	18	Pennsylvania	17	32	Missouri	21	46	Alabama	25
5	North Dakota	13	18	Rhode Island	17	32	Montana	21	46	New Mexico	25
5	Vermont	13	18	Wisconsin	17	35	Georgia	22	48	Kentucky	26
5	Wyoming	13	23	Idaho	18	35	Ohio	22	49	Arkansas	27
11	Hawaii	14	23	Kansas	18	35	Oklahoma	22	50	Mississippi	31
11	Minnesota	14	23	Nevada	18	38	Arizona	23	N.R.	District of Columbia	29
11	Virginia	14	26	Illinois	19	38	Michigan	23	N.R.	Puerto Rico	57

N.R. Not Ranked.

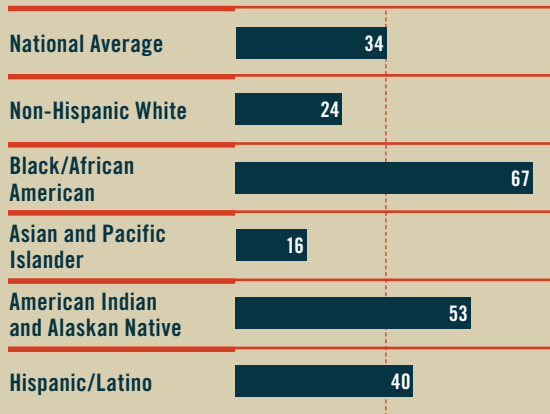
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# Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families

Much of the public interest in family structure is linked to the fact that children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available as those growing up in two-parent families. In 2009, 34 percent of single-parent families with related children had incomes below the poverty line, compared to 8 percent of married-couple families with children. Only about one-third of female-headed families reported receiving any child support or alimony payments in 2009. The U.S. Census Bureau defines single-parent families as those families headed by an unmarried adult.

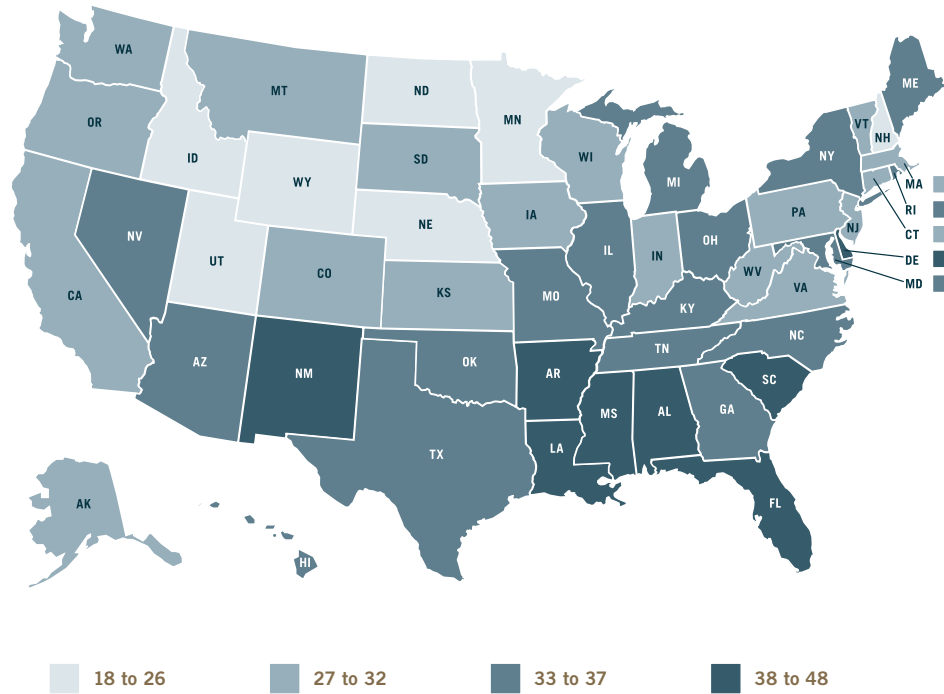
- » About 23.8 million children lived in single-parent families in 2009. Of these children, 5.2 million lived with cohabiting domestic partners.
- » Nationwide, there was an increase in the Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families, from 31 percent in 2000 to 34 percent in 2009. There were 3.1 million more children living in single-parent families in 2009 than in 2000.
- » During this period, Oregon, Utah, and the District of Columbia recorded a decrease in the Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families; 3 states reported no change in this measure; while the situation worsened in 45 states.
- » In 2009, the Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families ranged from a low of 18 percent in Utah to a high of 48 percent in Mississippi.
- » Between 2000 and 2009, increases were seen across all racial and ethnic groups except Asian and Pacific Islander children. Two-thirds (67 percent) of African-American children lived in single-parent families, compared to two-fifths (40 percent) of Hispanic/Latino youth and slightly less than one-fourth (24 percent) of non-Hispanic white children.

**Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2009**



**NOTE** Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino. Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

## Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families: 2009



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	18	12	Kansas	30	26	Illinois	33	38	Tennessee	36
2	Idaho	24	12	New Jersey	30	26	Maine	33	41	Arizona	37
3	New Hampshire	25	12	Vermont	30	29	Kentucky	34	41	Georgia	37
3	North Dakota	25	12	Washington	30	29	Maryland	34	43	Arkansas	38
5	Minnesota	26	12	Wisconsin	30	29	Michigan	34	43	Delaware	38
5	Nebraska	26	19	Montana	31	32	Missouri	35	43	Florida	38
5	Wyoming	26	19	Oregon	31	32	Nevada	35	46	Alabama	39
8	Colorado	28	19	Virginia	31	32	New York	35	47	South Carolina	40
8	South Dakota	28	22	California	32	32	Ohio	35	48	New Mexico	41
10	Iowa	29	22	Indiana	32	32	Oklahoma	35	49	Louisiana	42
10	Massachusetts	29	22	Pennsylvania	32	32	Texas	35	50	Mississippi	48
12	Alaska	30	22	West Virginia	32	38	North Carolina	36	N.R.	District of Columbia	61
12	Connecticut	30	26	Hawaii	33	38	Rhode Island	36	N.R.	Puerto Rico	54

N.R. Not Ranked.

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