



CONTACT: Byron Johnson, 202-842-3600, Ext. 230
kidscount@hagerssharp.com
Sue Lin Chong, 410-223-2836
schong@aecf.org

2008 KIDS COUNT National Fact Sheet

While there have been slight gains in child well-being since 2000, the latest available indicators signal that they still lag behind the steady improvements of the late 1990s. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2008 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* shows that since 2000, five of the 10 key indicators improved, four indicators got worse, and one stayed the same.

A Project of
The Annie E. Casey
Foundation

- Five areas of improvement: child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, high school dropout rate, and teens not in school and not working;
- One area had no change: infant mortality rate; and
- Four areas have worsened: low-birthweight babies, children living in families where no parent has full-time year-round employment, children in poverty, and children in single parent families.

The 19th annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* also discusses developments in the nation's juvenile justice systems, highlighting recent research and reforms that provide the basis for a fundamental, urgently needed transformation. The 2008 essay, "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform," makes the case for keeping youth in a separate justice system, reducing incarceration, ensuring safe institutions, and eliminating racially disparate treatment. The essay challenges local and state systems to be accountable for youth and community safety outcomes and calls for an increased federal role in promoting juvenile justice reform.

701 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410 547.6624 Fax
410 547.6600
www.kidscount.org

Children in the Juvenile Justice System

- **In 2006, the estimated daily count of detained and committed youth in the custody of juvenile facilities in the United States was 92,854.**
- **The same year, the rate of detained and committed youth in custody was 125 per 100,000 youth ages 10-15; the ratio of rates of youth of color to white youth in custody was 3:1; and two out of three (66 percent) of all youth in custody were there due to a non-violent offense.**
- **In 2005, the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate was 283 per 100,000 youth ages 10-17.**

10 Measures of Child Well-Being

Percent of low-birthweight babies continues to increase.

Between 2000 and 2005, the percentage of low-birthweight babies (less than 5.5 lbs) increased from 7.6 percent to 8.2 percent, an 8 percent increase. The 2005 rate is the highest rate reported since 1969 and has increased more dramatically for white, non-Hispanic babies than for the other racial categories.

Best rate in 2005: Alaska, Oregon, Washington (6.1 percent)

Worst rate in 2005: Mississippi (11.8 percent)

Infant mortality rate has stalled.

After several decades of constantly falling infant mortality rates, improvements have stalled. The infant mortality rate (6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births) in 2005 is the same as it was in 2000. Between 2001 and 2002, the infant mortality rate increased for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Best rate in 2005: Utah (4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births)

Worst rate in 2005: Mississippi (11.3 deaths per 1,000 live births)

Child death rate improved slightly.

The child death rate dropped slightly from 22 out of every 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14 in 2000 to 20 deaths per 100,000 in 2005.

Best rate in 2005: New Hampshire (8 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

Worst rate in 2005: Louisiana (34 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)

Teen death rate inched downward.

The death rate for youth ages 15 to 19 dropped from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 65 deaths per 100,000 in 2005.

Best rate in 2005: Hawaii (37 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

Worst rate in 2005: Louisiana, Wyoming (103 deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)

Teen birth rate continues to drop.

Nationally, the teen birth rate fell from 48 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to a new record-low of 40 births per 1,000 females in this age range in 2005.

Best rate in 2005: New Hampshire (18 births per 1,000 females)

Worst rate in 2005: New Mexico, Texas (62 births per 1,000 females)

High school dropout rate improves.

The high school dropout rate dropped from 11 percent of teens ages 16 to 19 not in school and with no high school diploma in 2000 to 7 percent in 2006.

Best rate in 2006: North Dakota (3 percent)

Worst rate in 2006: Louisiana (11 percent)

Percentage of idle teens decreases slightly.

The percentage of teens (ages 16-19) not attending school and not working has dropped slightly from 9 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2006.

Best rate in 2006: New Hampshire (4 percent)

Worst rate in 2006: Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico (12 percent)

The rate of children living in families where no parent has a full-time, year-round job continues to increase.

The percentage of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment increased from 32 percent in 2000 to 33 percent in 2006.

Best rate in 2006: North Dakota (24 percent)

Worst rate in 2006: Louisiana (43 percent)

Children living in poverty increases.

The percentage of children living in poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children) increased from 17 in 2000 to 18 percent in 2006.

Best rate in 2006: Maryland, New Hampshire (10 percent)

Worst rate in 2006: Mississippi (30 percent)

Percentage of children living in single-parent households rose slightly.

There was a small increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent families, from 31 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2006.

Best rate in 2006: Utah (18 percent)

Worst rate in 2006: Mississippi (45 percent)

Note on data sources: The KIDS COUNT Data Book uses the most up-to-date state level estimates from Federal statistical agencies. The data on the high school dropout rate, the number of idle teens, the number of children who live with a parent who lacks a full-time year-round job, the child poverty rate, and the number of children living in single-parent households come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and reflect conditions in 2006. Data on births and deaths come from the National Center for Health Statistics and reflect events in 2005. Data for indicators on juvenile justice with the exception of the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest rate are from the National Center for Juvenile Justice's special analysis of data from the 2006 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement. The Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest rate is from NCJJ's special analysis data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.