

Child Well-Being in Puerto Rico

Beginning in 2007, data on child well-being for children living on the island of Puerto Rico have been included in the *KIDS COUNT Data Book*. The data for Puerto Rico come from the same data sources as the information we include for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. As data have only been available recently for all 10 indicators, we are unable to include information on trends in this year's *Data Book*. In addition, we do not include Puerto Rico in our state rankings, as comparisons with states are not meaningful on many indicators. Currently, data for these indicators are not available for the U.S. Virgin Islands, although we hope to have information from the Virgin Islands Community Survey for inclusion in the future.

- In 2006, there were an estimated 1 million children on the island of Puerto Rico. This represents a larger child population than that of about half of the states in the United States.
- On 8 of the 10 key measures of child well-being, these children face higher levels of risk overall than the U.S. average.
- The child poverty rate for Puerto Rico (56 percent) is more than three times the level in the United States as a whole (18 percent).
- Babies born in Puerto Rico are far more likely to be of low birthweight (12.8 percent) and born to teen mothers (61 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19) than in the U.S. overall (8.2 percent and 40 per 1,000, respectively).
- However, the rate of deaths among children ages 1 to 14 (13 per 100,000) and teens ages 15 to 19 (63 per 100,000) are both lower than the national rates.

TABLE 3 10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being in Puerto Rico: 2005/2006

Key Indicators		PUERTO RICO NUMBER	PUERTO RICO RATE	U.S. RATE
Percent low-birthweight babies	2005	6,470	12.8	8.2
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2005	466	9.2	6.9
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2005	107	13	20
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2005	188	63	65
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2005	8,968	61	40
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16–19)	2006	20,223	9	7
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	2006	33,637	14	8
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2006	561,220	55	33
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006)	2006	555,375	56	18
Percent of children in single-parent families	2006	435,563	47	32