

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 kids' 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 190.

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 2008 *Data Book* to rankings in past *Data Books* does not always provide a perfect assessment of change over time. However, Appendix 2 shows how states would have ranked in past years if we had employed the same 10 measures used in the 2008 *Data Book*. The table in Appendix 2 is the best way to assess state changes over time in overall child well-being.

Variations in Child Well-Being by Race and Ethnicity

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 1 provides national statistics for five large racial and ethnic groups on each of the 10 measures of child well-being used to rank states. Over the next year, we will be working to include state-level data for these racial and ethnic groups for our 10 key indicators at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (www.kidscount.org/datacenter).

TABLE 1 10 Key Indicators of Child Well-Being by Race and Hispanic Origin Status: 2005/2006

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	2005	8.2	7.3	13.6	8.0	7.4	6.9
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2005	6.9	5.7	13.7	3.8	8.0	5.8
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2005	20	18	29	15	29	18
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2005	65	60	84	34	94	67
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2005	40	26	62	17	53	82
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16–19)*	2006	7	5	8	2	11	12
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)*	2006	8	6	12	4	16	11
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment*	2006	33	27	50	29	53	37
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006)*	2006	18	11	35	12	35	28
Percent of children in single-parent families*	2006	32	23	65	16	49	37

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

*For this measure, the 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.

Nationally, the differences in child well-being across racial and ethnic lines vary by indicator. Our ability to progress as a nation depends on the degree to which we can create opportunities for all children to succeed. In fact, nationally, 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 children continue to have greater opportunities for better outcomes compared with most other racial and ethnic groups. Comparative data from 2000 for the information contained in Table 1 can be found at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (www.kidscount.org/datacenter).

KIDS COUNT State Indicators

In the pages that follow, the most recent figures are compared with corresponding data from 2000 to assess the trends over time in each state. To provide a fuller picture of children's lives and a framework for better understanding the 10 key indicators of child well-being used to rank states, several background measures are provided for each state, including measures that reflect children in the juvenile justice system.

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. 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. Therefore, 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. Yearly data since 2000 for each state are presented in Appendix 1.

We include data for the District of Columbia in the *Data Book*, but we do not include the District in our state rankings because it is so different from any state that the comparisons are not meaningful. It is more useful to look at changes within the District of Columbia since 2000, or to compare the District with other large cities. As of January 2008, data for many child well-being indicators for the 50 largest cities (including the District) are available at the KIDS COUNT Data Center (www.kidscount.org/datacenter). This year's *KIDS COUNT Data Book* also includes data for Puerto Rico (see page 36). 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 at the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

National Trends in Child Well-Being

The data on the following pages present a rich but complex picture of American children. Some dimensions of well-being improved, some worsened, and some showed little change. However, the overriding picture that these 10 indicators present is one of little change since 2000. (See the USA Profile on page 62.) 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 4 indicators and stayed the same on 1 indicator. It should be noted, however, that many of these changes were very small and may be random fluctuations in the data. The portrait of child well-being varies among states, and state-level measures often mask important differences within a state. Additional information on child well-being for cities, counties, school districts, and other levels of geography can be found at the online data systems available at www.kidscount.org, including the KIDS COUNT Data Center (www.kidscount.org/datacenter) and the Community-Level Information on Kids System, or CLIKS (www.kidscount.org/cliiks).

The portrait of change in child well-being since 2000 stands in stark contrast to 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 since the mid-1990s. Between 1994 and 2000, the child poverty rate fell by 30 percent. This was the largest decrease in child poverty since the 1960s. Since 2000, however, improvements have stalled. In fact, the child poverty rate has increased by 6 percent, meaning 1 million more children in poverty in 2006 than in 2000.

Table 2 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 through the KIDS COUNT Data Center (www.kidscount.org/datacenter).

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. Similar data showing the numbers behind the state rates are offered in Appendix 1 and at the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

TABLE 2 Highest and Lowest Ranking States

Key Indicators		HIGHEST RANKING VALUE	HIGHEST RANKING STATE(S)	LOWEST RANKING VALUE	LOWEST RANKING STATE(S)
Percent low-birthweight babies	2005	6.1	Alaska, Oregon, Washington	11.8	Mississippi
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2005	4.5	Utah	11.3	Mississippi
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	2005	8	New Hampshire	34	Louisiana
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	2005	37	Hawaii	103	Louisiana, Wyoming
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	2005	18	New Hampshire	62	New Mexico, Texas
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16–19)	2006	3	North Dakota	11	Louisiana
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	2006	4	New Hampshire	12	Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2006	24	North Dakota	43	Louisiana
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006)	2006	10	Maryland, New Hampshire	30	Mississippi
Percent of children in single-parent families	2006	18	Utah	45	Mississippi

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

Ranking States on Composite Index

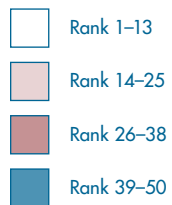
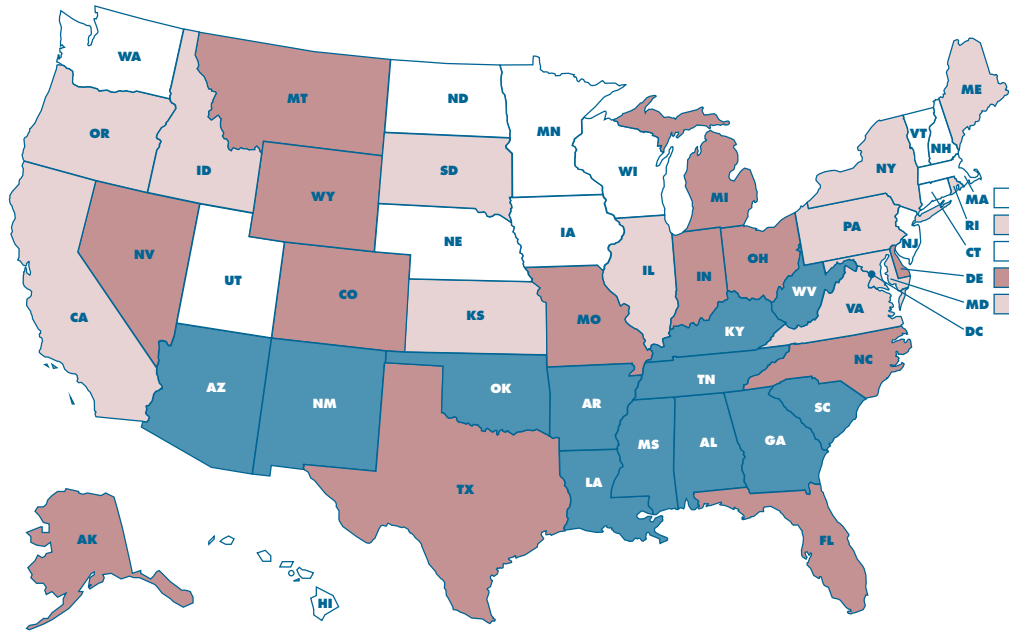
Data from all 10 key indicators are used to develop a composite index of child well-being for each state. The Overall Rank Table and Map show how states rank, based on the 10-item index.

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 New Mexico.

The Overall Rank Map also reflects a couple of 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, North Dakota, and Wisconsin are all ranked in the top 12.

At the other end of the spectrum, states in the South and Southwest dominate the lower part of the ranking. Except for West Virginia, the 10 states with the lowest Overall Rank in terms of child well-being are all located in the South or Southwest.

Overall Rank: 2008



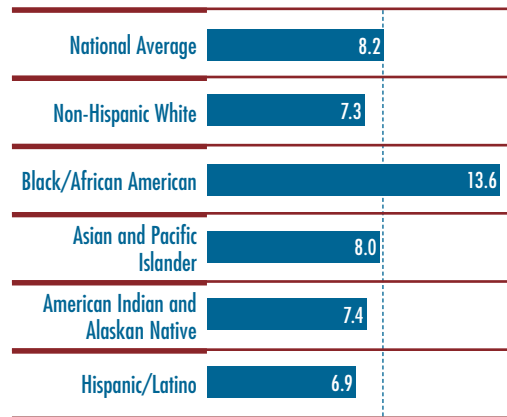
■ A state's Overall Rank is determined by the sum of the state's standing on each of 10 measures of the condition of children arranged in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (50). See Definitions and Data Sources at the KIDS COUNT website.

Rank	State	Rank	State
1	New Hampshire	27	Michigan
2	Minnesota	28	Colorado
3	Massachusetts	29	Montana
4	Connecticut	30	Ohio
5	Utah	31	Alaska
6	New Jersey	32	Missouri
7	North Dakota	33	Delaware
8	Iowa	34	Indiana
9	Nebraska	35	Florida
10	Vermont	36	Nevada
11	Washington	37	Texas
12	Wisconsin	38	North Carolina
13	Hawaii	39	Arizona
14	Idaho	40	Georgia
15	Virginia	41	Kentucky
16	Maine	42	Tennessee
17	Oregon	43	Oklahoma
18	Kansas	44	West Virginia
19	Maryland	45	Arkansas
20	New York	46	South Carolina
21	Rhode Island	47	Alabama
22	California	48	New Mexico
23	Pennsylvania	49	Louisiana
24	Illinois	50	Mississippi
25	South Dakota	N.R.	District of Columbia
26	Wyoming		

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005



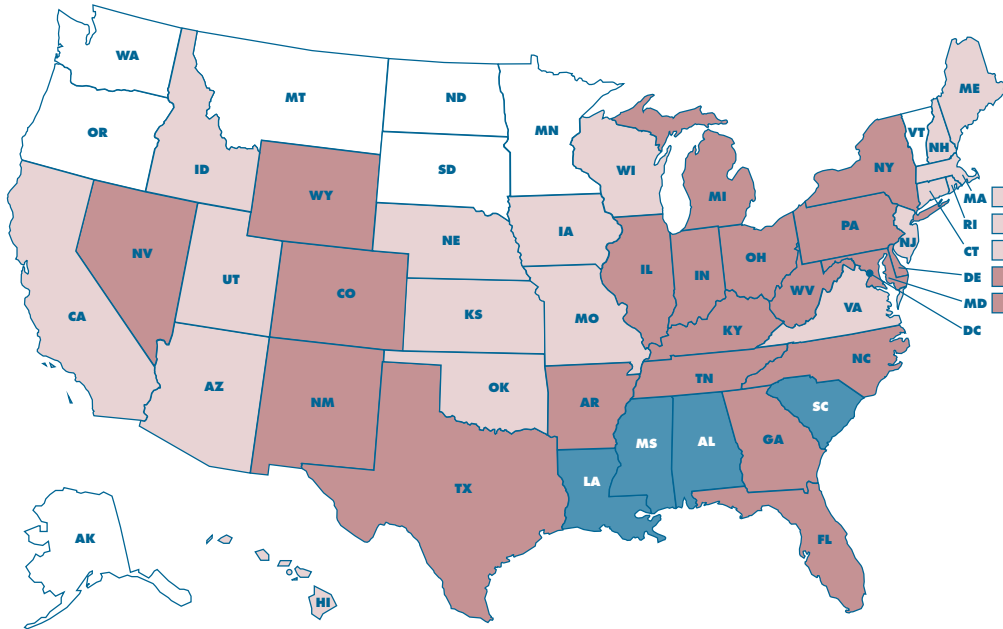
NOTE: Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

Newborn babies remind 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. Low-birthweight infants are at greater risk of dying within the first year of life and of experiencing both short- and long-term disabilities than those with a higher birthweight. 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.

- Nationally, 338,565 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in 2005. Low-birthweight babies were 8.2 percent of all births in 2005, compared to 7.6 percent in 2000. This represents an 8 percent increase in low-weight births over the 2000 to 2005 period and is now at the highest level in nearly 40 years.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the percent of low-birthweight babies worsened in 47 states and improved in only 1 state, Arizona, and in the District of Columbia. The indicator did not change in Idaho and North Dakota.
- Of the low-birthweight babies born in 2005, 61,788 were very low-birthweight (less than 1,500 grams, or 3.25 pounds). These babies are among the most vulnerable as nearly one out of four babies born very low-birthweight did not survive their first year of life in 2004.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the level of low-birthweight babies rose for all five of the largest racial and ethnic groups.

For more information on low-birthweight babies, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies: 2005*



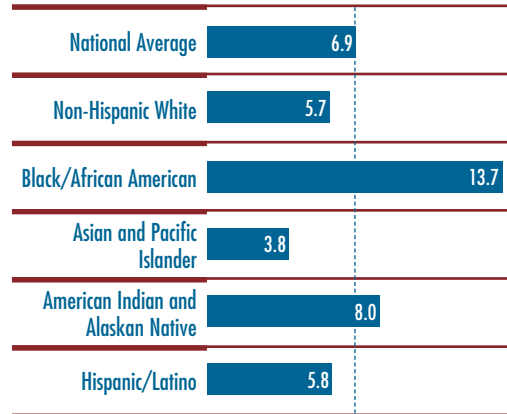
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Alaska	6.1	27	Indiana	8.3
1	Oregon	6.1	27	Michigan	8.3
1	Washington	6.1	27	Nevada	8.3
4	Vermont	6.2	27	New York	8.3
5	North Dakota	6.4	27	Texas	8.3
6	Minnesota	6.5	32	Pennsylvania	8.4
7	Montana	6.6	33	Illinois	8.5
7	South Dakota	6.6	33	New Mexico	8.5
9	Idaho	6.7	35	Wyoming	8.6
10	Maine	6.8	36	Florida	8.7
10	Utah	6.8	36	Ohio	8.7
12	Arizona	6.9	38	Arkansas	8.9
12	California	6.9	39	Kentucky	9.1
14	Nebraska	7.0	39	Maryland	9.1
14	New Hampshire	7.0	41	Colorado	9.2
14	Wisconsin	7.0	41	North Carolina	9.2
17	Iowa	7.2	43	Delaware	9.5
17	Kansas	7.2	43	Georgia	9.5
19	Rhode Island	7.8	43	Tennessee	9.5
20	Massachusetts	7.9	46	West Virginia	9.6
21	Connecticut	8.0	47	South Carolina	10.2
21	Oklahoma	8.0	48	Alabama	10.7
23	Missouri	8.1	49	Louisiana	11.5
24	Hawaii	8.2	50	Mississippi	11.8
24	New Jersey	8.2	N.R.	District of Columbia	11.2
24	Virginia	8.2			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

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

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005



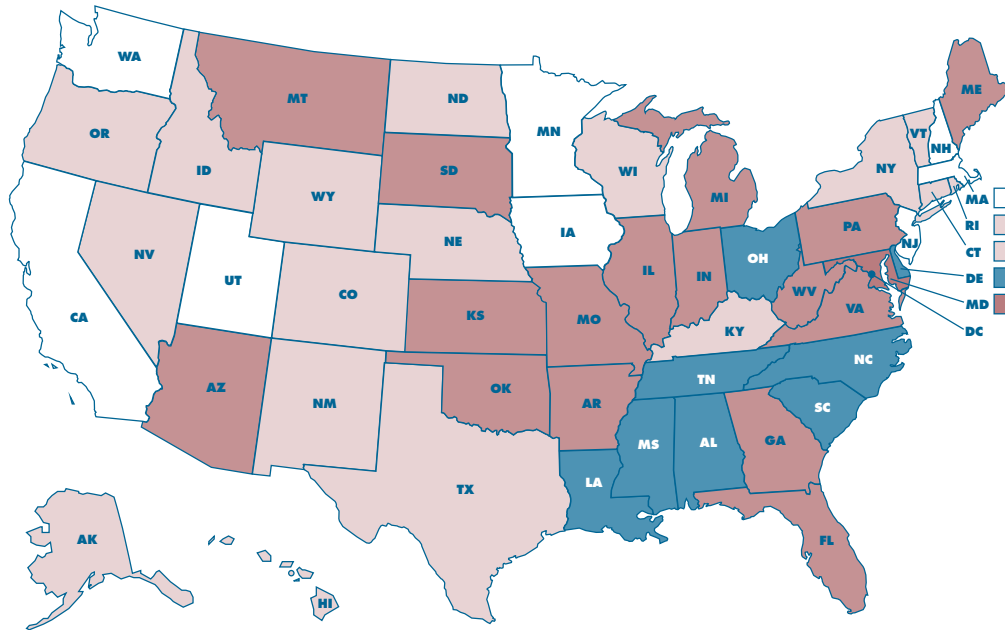
NOTE: Data for Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives include those who are also Hispanic/Latino.

Since the first year of life is more precarious than later years of childhood, negative social conditions (such as poverty and an unhealthy physical environment) have a bigger impact on newborns. The number of children who die before their first birthday is reflected in the Infant Mortality Rate, defined as the number of deaths to persons less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births during the year. After several decades of constantly falling infant mortality rates, improvement has stalled. The Infant Mortality Rate in 2005 is the same as it was in 2000. In fact, between 2001 and 2002, the Infant Mortality Rate increased for the first time in nearly 50 years.

- During 2005, 28,440 infants under age 1 died in the United States, about 78 each day. This represents 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the Infant Mortality Rate improved in 25 states, was unchanged in 2 others, and deteriorated in 23 states and the District of Columbia.
- Among the states, the Infant Mortality Rate in 2005 ranged from a low of 4.5 in Utah to a high of 11.3 in Mississippi. However, some rates are based on a relatively small number of infant deaths and may not be a very good gauge of the underlying risk of death.
- According to a recent report by UNICEF’s Innocenti Research Center, the United States has the second highest Infant Mortality Rate among all economically advanced nations. The Infant Mortality Rate for African-American children in 2005 (13.7 deaths per 1,000 births) is on par with such countries as Uruguay, Serbia, and Panama.

For more information on infant mortality, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births): 2005

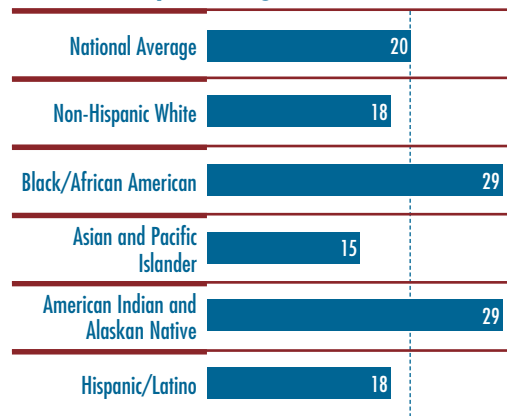


Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	4.5	26	Maine	6.9
2	Minnesota	5.1	28	Montana	7.0
2	Washington	5.1	29	Florida	7.2
4	Massachusetts	5.2	29	South Dakota	7.2
4	New Jersey	5.2	31	Maryland	7.3
6	California	5.3	31	Pennsylvania	7.3
6	Iowa	5.3	33	Illinois	7.4
6	New Hampshire	5.3	33	Kansas	7.4
9	Nebraska	5.6	35	Missouri	7.5
10	Connecticut	5.8	35	Virginia	7.5
10	Nevada	5.8	37	Arkansas	7.9
10	New York	5.8	37	Michigan	7.9
13	Alaska	5.9	39	Indiana	8.0
13	Oregon	5.9	40	Oklahoma	8.1
15	North Dakota	6.0	40	West Virginia	8.1
16	Idaho	6.1	42	Georgia	8.2
16	New Mexico	6.1	43	Ohio	8.3
18	Colorado	6.4	44	North Carolina	8.8
19	Hawaii	6.5	45	Tennessee	8.9
19	Rhode Island	6.5	46	Delaware	9.0
21	Kentucky	6.6	47	Alabama	9.4
21	Texas	6.6	47	South Carolina	9.4
21	Wisconsin	6.6	49	Louisiana	10.1
24	Vermont	6.7	50	Mississippi	11.3
25	Wyoming	6.8	N.R.	District of Columbia	14.1
26	Arizona	6.9			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Child Death Rate

Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005



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

The Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) has fallen steadily for the past several years, in large part because of advances in medical care. The general decrease in deaths from motor vehicle accidents, which accounted for one out of five child deaths in 2005, also has contributed to a declining Child Death Rate.

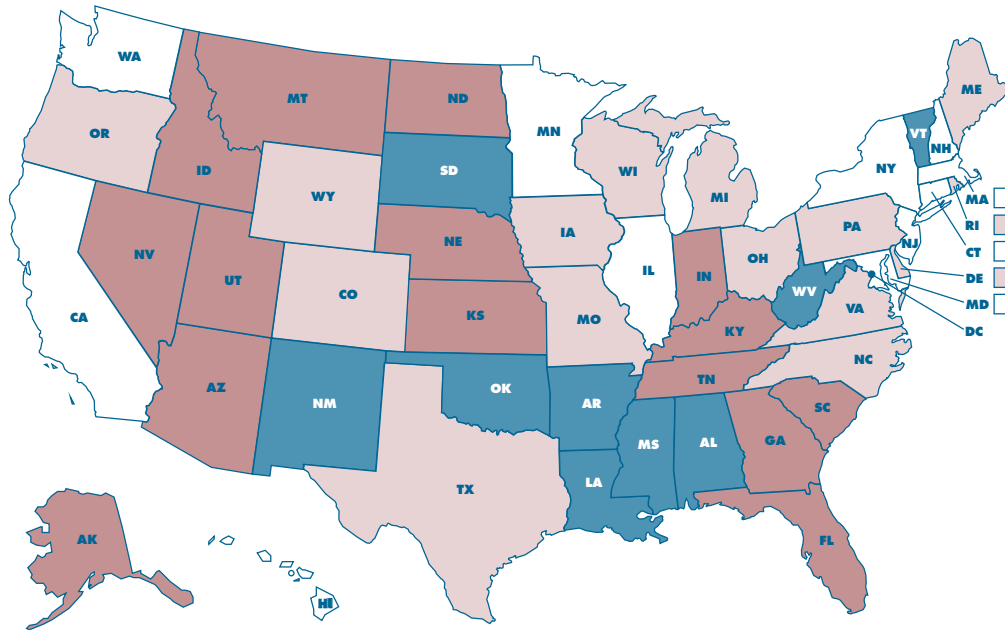
The leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 is unintentional injury. However, the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control reports that for each injury-related death in 2005, there were more than 1,400 injury-related emergency room visits and about 23 hospital admissions for children who survived their injuries.

Many young children die in automobile accidents because they are not wearing a seat belt. Nearly half of the children under age 15 who died in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt or other restraint.

- During 2005, 11,358 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in the United States, an average of 31 deaths per day.
- The Child Death Rate inched downward from 22 out of every 100,000 children in this age range in 2000, to 20 deaths per 100,000 in 2005.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the Child Death Rate decreased in 35 states and the District of Columbia, while increasing in 11 states. In 4 states, the rate was unchanged.
- The Child Death Rate in 2005 ranged from 8 in New Hampshire to 34 in Louisiana.
- The Child Death Rates for American Indians and Alaskan Natives and African Americans (29 deaths per 100,000) are the highest of all major racial and ethnic groups.

For more information on child death, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14): 2005



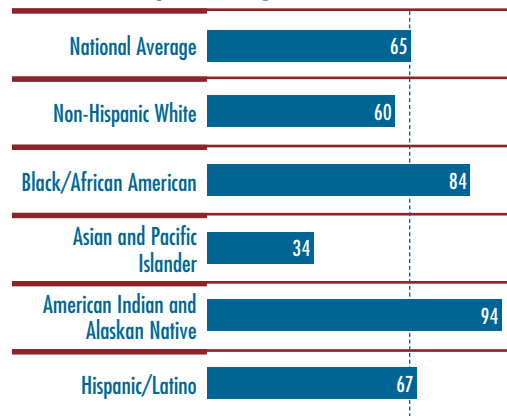
- More than 20% better than state median (17 and lower)
- Up to 20% better than state median (18 to 21)
- Up to 20% worse than state median (22 to 25)
- More than 20% worse than state median (26 and higher)

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	8	27	Florida	22
2	Massachusetts	10	27	Georgia	22
3	Connecticut	14	27	Nebraska	22
3	New Jersey	14	27	Utah	22
5	Minnesota	15	31	Idaho	23
6	Hawaii	16	31	Kansas	23
6	Maryland	16	31	North Dakota	23
6	New York	16	34	Alaska	24
6	Washington	16	34	Arizona	24
10	California	17	34	Nevada	24
10	Illinois	17	34	Tennessee	24
12	Delaware	18	38	Indiana	25
12	Maine	18	38	Kentucky	25
12	Oregon	18	38	Montana	25
15	Iowa	19	38	South Carolina	25
15	Pennsylvania	19	42	Alabama	26
15	Virginia	19	42	Vermont	26
18	Ohio	20	42	West Virginia	26
18	Rhode Island	20	45	Oklahoma	28
18	Wisconsin	20	46	Arkansas	29
18	Wyoming	20	46	South Dakota	29
22	Colorado	21	48	New Mexico	31
22	Michigan	21	49	Mississippi	33
22	Missouri	21	50	Louisiana	34
22	North Carolina	21	N.R.	District of Columbia	24
22	Texas	21			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Teen Death Rate

Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005



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

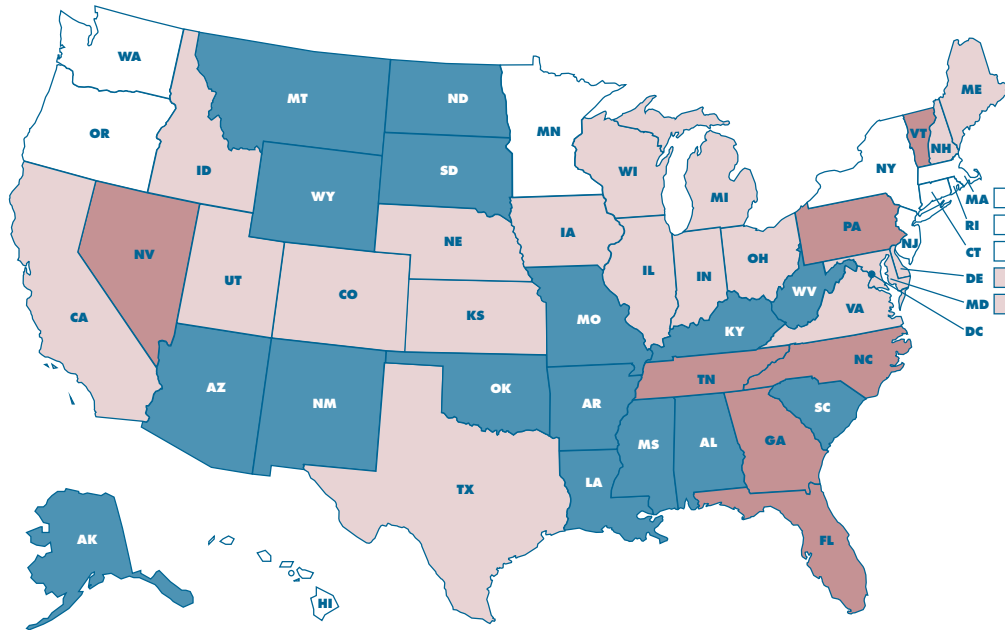
As people move into their middle and late teenage years, they encounter many new risks that can cost them their life. The Teen Death Rate reflects deaths among 15- to 19-year-olds (per 100,000 teens in this age group) from all causes. It is worth noting that deaths from accidents, homicides, and suicides accounted for 75 percent of all deaths in this age group in 2005.

Accidents continue to account for at least three times as many teen deaths as any other single cause, including homicide. Most of the lethal accidents are automobile accidents. In 2005, 6,616 teens died due to accidents (4,967 deaths were due to motor vehicle accidents), 2,076 teen deaths were due to homicide, and 1,613 teen deaths were due to suicide.

- In 2005, 13,703 adolescents ages 15 to 19 died, and this is the equivalent of the number of passengers on 39 jumbo jets. Virtually all of these deaths were preventable.
- The Teen Death Rate inched downward from 67 deaths per 100,000 teens in 2000 to 65 deaths in 2005. The Teen Death Rate had been steadily declining between 1990 and about 1998, when progress began to slow. In 2005, the Teen Death Rate was only slightly lower than in 1998.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the Teen Death Rate declined in 32 states, increased in 13 states (and the District of Columbia), and remained unchanged in 5.
- Among the states, the Teen Death Rate in 2005 ranged from a low of 37 in Hawaii to a high of 103 in Louisiana and Wyoming.
- The Teen Death Rate for American Indians and Alaskan Natives is 45 percent higher than the national average.

For more information on teen death, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19): 2005



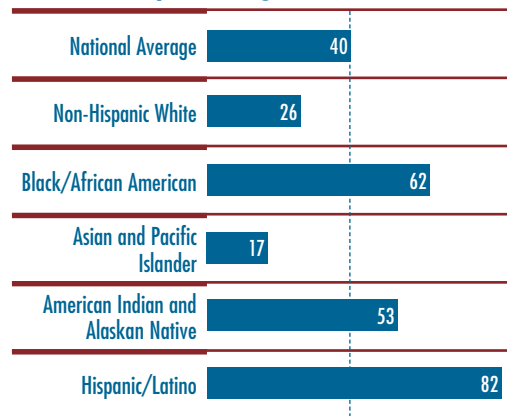
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Hawaii	37	24	Texas	66
2	Rhode Island	39	28	Pennsylvania	67
3	Massachusetts	41	29	Vermont	68
4	Connecticut	43	30	North Carolina	70
5	New Jersey	45	31	Georgia	71
5	New York	45	32	Florida	75
7	Minnesota	49	32	Nevada	75
8	Oregon	51	34	Tennessee	79
9	Washington	53	35	North Dakota	80
10	New Hampshire	55	36	Alaska	83
11	Idaho	56	36	Kentucky	83
11	Utah	56	38	Missouri	84
13	Michigan	57	38	South Carolina	84
13	Virginia	57	40	Arizona	87
15	Delaware	58	40	Montana	87
16	California	60	40	New Mexico	87
16	Colorado	60	40	West Virginia	87
18	Ohio	61	44	Alabama	88
19	Illinois	62	45	Oklahoma	90
20	Maine	63	46	Arkansas	94
21	Indiana	64	47	South Dakota	96
21	Wisconsin	64	48	Mississippi	101
23	Nebraska	65	49	Louisiana	103
24	Iowa	66	49	Wyoming	103
24	Kansas	66	N.R.	District of Columbia	173
24	Maryland	66			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

- More than 20% better than state median (53 and lower)
- Up to 20% better than state median (54 to 66)
- Up to 20% worse than state median (67 to 79)
- More than 20% worse than state median (80 and higher)

Teen Birth Rate

Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19) by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2005



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

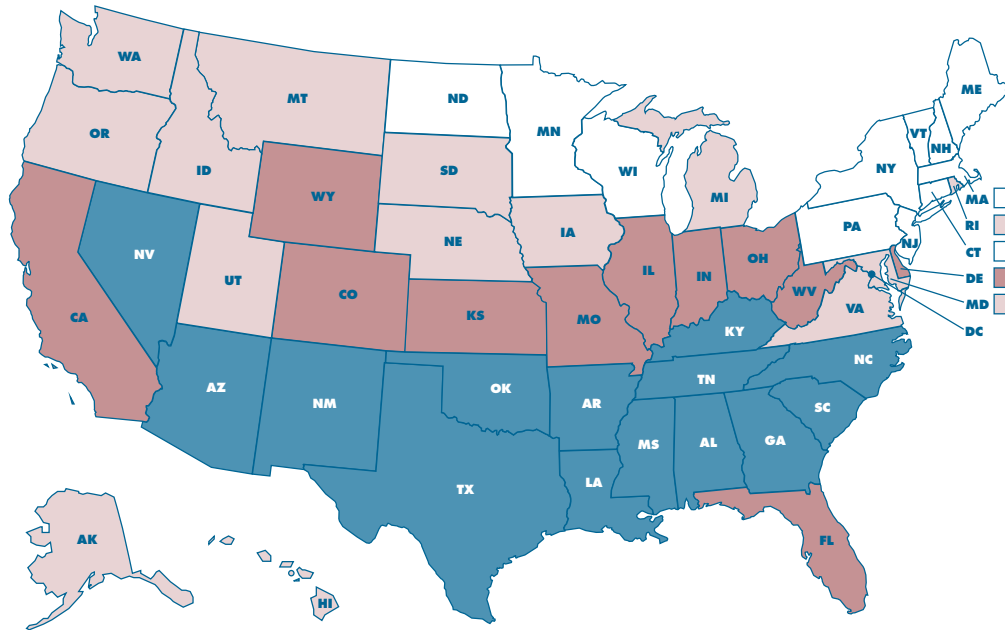
As Americans, we believe that every child should have a shot at achieving their full potential: getting a good education, securing a job that pays well, and raising a family of their own. But not all children have these opportunities. Teenage childbearing can have long-term negative effects on both the 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.

Nationally, the Teen Birth Rate fell from 48 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to a record-low 40 births per 1,000 teen females in this age range in 2005. Teen pregnancy rates and teen abortion rates have been falling as well. Although large gaps still exist, the decline in the Teen Birth Rate over this period was reflected among every major racial and ethnic group. It is worth noting, however, that preliminary data for 2006 show the possibility of an increase in the Teen Birth Rate for the first time in a decade.

- In 2005, there were 414,593 babies born to females ages 15 to 19. That averaged to about 1,136 births to teens each day.
- The 2005 rate of 40 births per 1,000 teens represents a drop of 17 percent from 2000. However, the United States still has one of the highest adolescent fertility rates among economically advanced nations.
- Between 2000 and 2005, the Teen Birth Rate decreased in 47 states, was unchanged in South Dakota, and increased only in North Dakota, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.
- Among the states, the Teen Birth Rate in 2005 ranged from a low of 18 in New Hampshire to a high of 62 in New Mexico and Texas.

For more information on teen birth, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

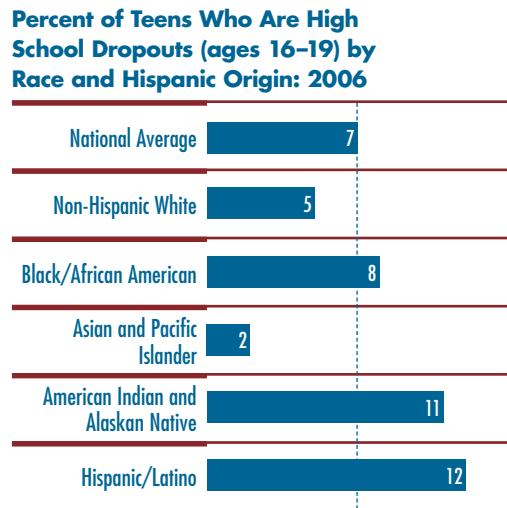
Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19): 2005



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	18	26	Illinois	39
2	Vermont	19	26	Ohio	39
3	Massachusetts	22	29	Kansas	41
4	Connecticut	23	30	Florida	42
4	New Jersey	23	30	Missouri	42
6	Maine	24	32	Colorado	43
7	Minnesota	26	32	Indiana	43
8	New York	27	32	West Virginia	43
9	North Dakota	30	32	Wyoming	43
9	Pennsylvania	30	36	Delaware	44
9	Wisconsin	30	37	North Carolina	48
12	Rhode Island	31	38	Kentucky	49
12	Washington	31	38	Louisiana	49
14	Maryland	32	40	Alabama	50
14	Michigan	32	40	Nevada	50
16	Iowa	33	42	South Carolina	51
16	Oregon	33	43	Georgia	53
16	Utah	33	44	Oklahoma	54
19	Nebraska	34	45	Tennessee	55
19	Virginia	34	46	Arizona	58
21	Montana	35	47	Arkansas	59
22	Hawaii	36	48	Mississippi	61
23	Alaska	37	49	New Mexico	62
24	Idaho	38	49	Texas	62
24	South Dakota	38	N.R.	District of Columbia	63
26	California	39			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Percent of Teens Who Are High School Dropouts



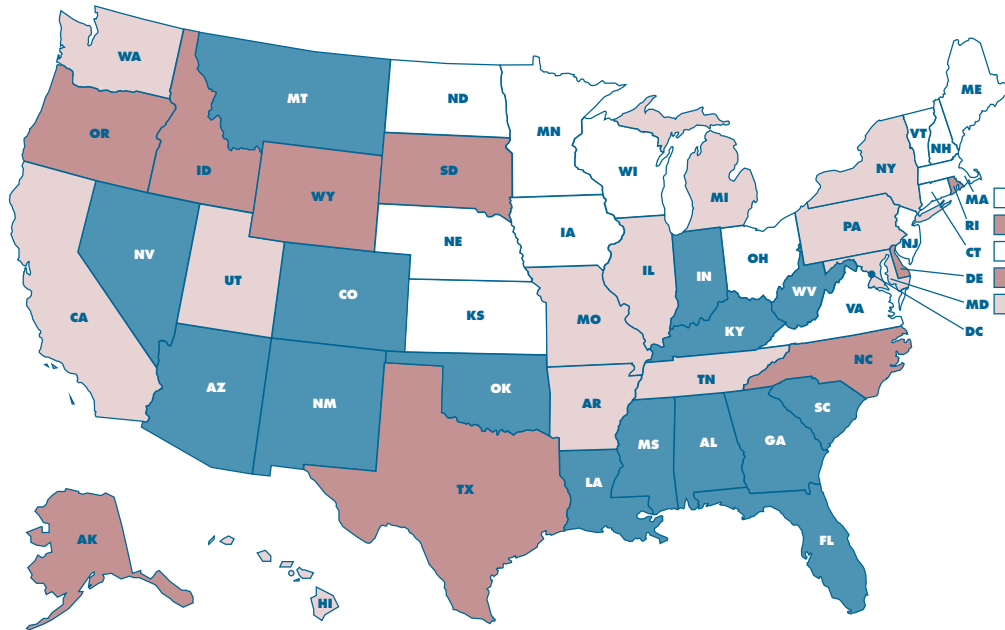
NOTE: Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

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.

- Nationwide in 2006, there were about 1.1 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 who were not in school and had not graduated from high school.
- The dropout rate in 2006 (7 percent) was 4 percentage points lower than the 11 percent rate in 2000. It should be noted that between 2000 and 2006, the group quarters population was added to the estimate so some caution must be used in making comparisons between the 2 reference years. However, 2006 estimates follow the same declining trend as evidenced over the past several years.
- Between 2000 and 2006, the dropout rate fell in 44 states (and the District of Columbia) and was unchanged in 4 others. The rate rose in only 2 states, Hawaii and Montana.
- In 2006, the high school dropout rate ranged from a low of 3 percent in North Dakota to a high of 11 percent in Louisiana.
- Although large gaps still exist, more teens across all five large racial and ethnic groups stayed in school and obtained a high school diploma or GED in 2006 than in 2000.

For more information on high school dropouts, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Percent of Teens Who Are High School Dropouts (ages 16–19): 2006

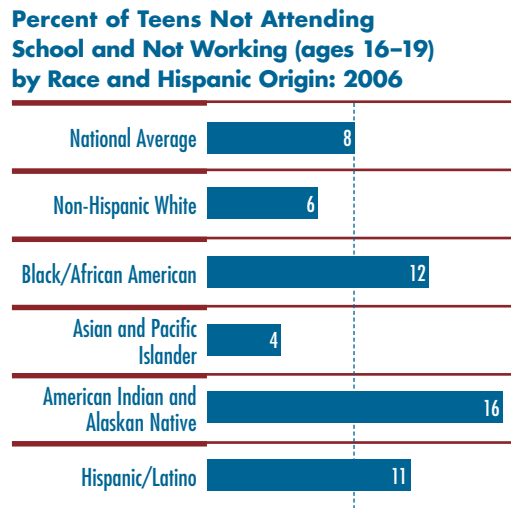


Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	3	27	Alaska	7
2	Connecticut	4	27	Delaware	7
2	Iowa	4	27	Idaho	7
2	Kansas	4	27	North Carolina	7
2	Maine	4	27	Oregon	7
2	Massachusetts	4	27	Rhode Island	7
2	Minnesota	4	27	South Dakota	7
2	New Hampshire	4	27	Texas	7
2	Vermont	4	27	Wyoming	7
10	Nebraska	5	36	Florida	8
10	New Jersey	5	36	Indiana	8
10	Ohio	5	36	Oklahoma	8
10	Virginia	5	36	South Carolina	8
10	Wisconsin	5	36	West Virginia	8
15	Arkansas	6	41	Alabama	9
15	California	6	41	Arizona	9
15	Hawaii	6	41	Colorado	9
15	Illinois	6	41	Georgia	9
15	Maryland	6	41	Kentucky	9
15	Michigan	6	41	Montana	9
15	Missouri	6	47	Mississippi	10
15	New York	6	47	Nevada	10
15	Pennsylvania	6	47	New Mexico	10
15	Tennessee	6	50	Louisiana	11
15	Utah	6	N.R.	District of Columbia	7
15	Washington	6			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working

Ensuring that all adolescents have the opportunity to make a successful transition to adulthood is a key to a healthy society in the future. 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 either of the core activities that usually occupy people during this crucial period in their lives. While 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.

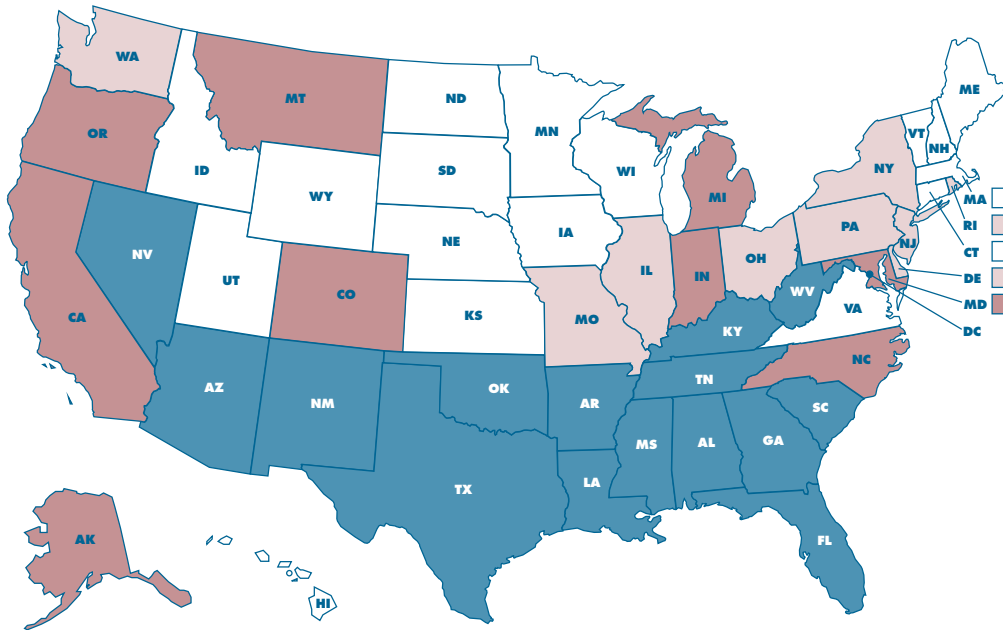


NOTE: Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

- In 2006, nearly 1.4 million teens between the ages of 16 and 19 were neither enrolled in school nor working.
- Nationwide, the share of 16- to 19-year-olds who were idle dropped slightly from 9 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2006.
- Between 2000 and 2006, the share of Idle Teens fell in 31 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 9 states, and remained unchanged in 10 others. It should be noted that between 2000 and 2006, the group quarters population was added to the estimate so some caution must be used in making comparisons between the 2 reference years.
- Among the states, the Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working in 2006 ranged from a low of 4 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 12 percent in Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

For more information on teens not attending school and not working, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19): 2006



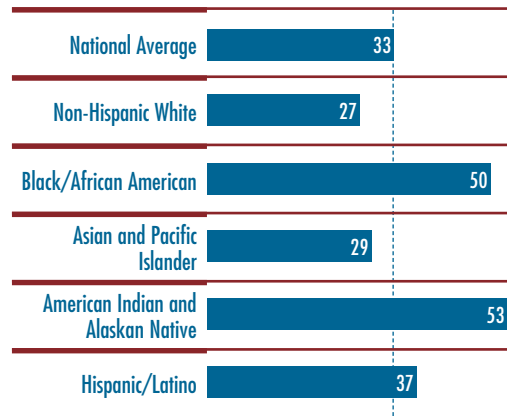
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	New Hampshire	4	27	Alaska	8
2	Connecticut	5	27	California	8
2	Iowa	5	27	Colorado	8
2	Maine	5	27	Indiana	8
2	Massachusetts	5	27	Maryland	8
2	Minnesota	5	27	Michigan	8
2	North Dakota	5	27	Montana	8
2	Vermont	5	27	North Carolina	8
9	Hawaii	6	27	Oregon	8
9	Idaho	6	36	Arizona	9
9	Kansas	6	36	Arkansas	9
9	Nebraska	6	36	Florida	9
9	South Dakota	6	36	Georgia	9
9	Utah	6	36	Oklahoma	9
9	Virginia	6	36	Tennessee	9
9	Wisconsin	6	36	Texas	9
9	Wyoming	6	43	Kentucky	10
18	Delaware	7	43	South Carolina	10
18	Illinois	7	43	West Virginia	10
18	Missouri	7	46	Alabama	11
18	New Jersey	7	46	Nevada	11
18	New York	7	48	Louisiana	12
18	Ohio	7	48	Mississippi	12
18	Pennsylvania	7	48	New Mexico	12
18	Rhode Island	7	N.R.	District of Columbia	10
18	Washington	7			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

- More than 20% better than state median (6 and lower)
- Up to 20% better than state median (7)
- Up to 20% worse than state median (8)
- More than 20% worse than state median (9 and higher)

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

Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2006



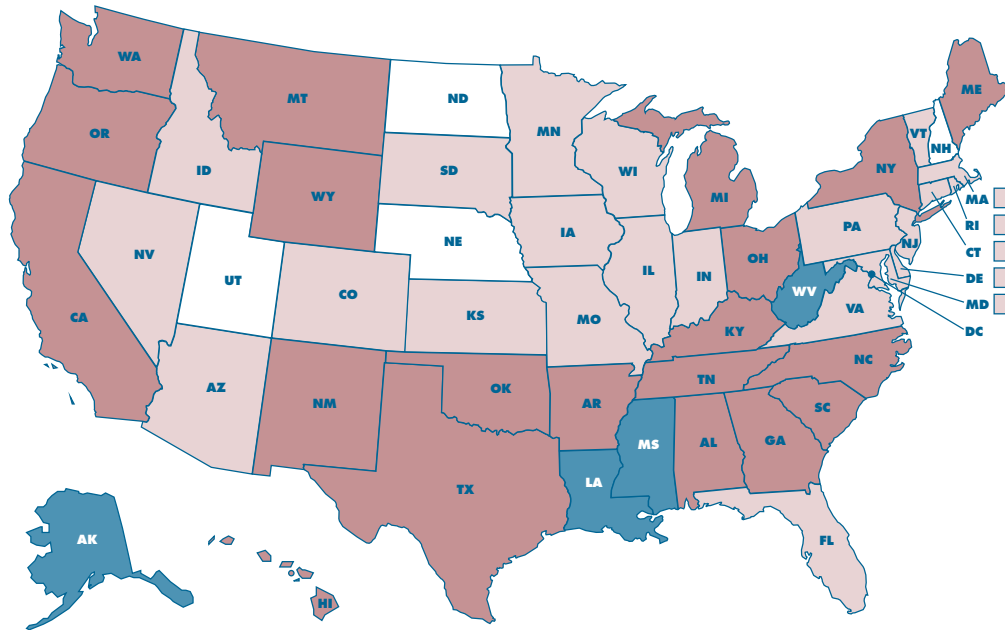
NOTE: Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

Children thrive when parents have the opportunity to earn income sufficient to support their family. In 2006, 24.3 million children had no parent in the household who worked full-time, year-round. This measure is sometimes referred to as “lack of secure parental employment.” In addition to having higher poverty rates, these children are more likely to lack access to the health and family benefits that a stable job provides. We found that 14 percent of children living in families where no parent had a full-time, year-round job lacked health insurance, compared to 9 percent in other families. Although there are significant benefits when a parent works, having one parent employed full-time, year-round is not a guarantee for economic security. Among children living in families maintained by two parents who were living below the poverty line, 57 percent had at least one parent working year-round, full-time.

- Nationally, the Percent 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.
- During that period, this measure improved in 12 states, got worse in 31 others (plus the District of Columbia), and was unchanged in 7 states.
- Among the states, the 2006 figures ranged from a low of 24 percent in North Dakota to a high of 43 percent in Louisiana.
- Although significant gaps still exist, the rate of children living without a securely employed parent has decreased across all major racial and ethnic groups over the past several decades.

For more information on children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

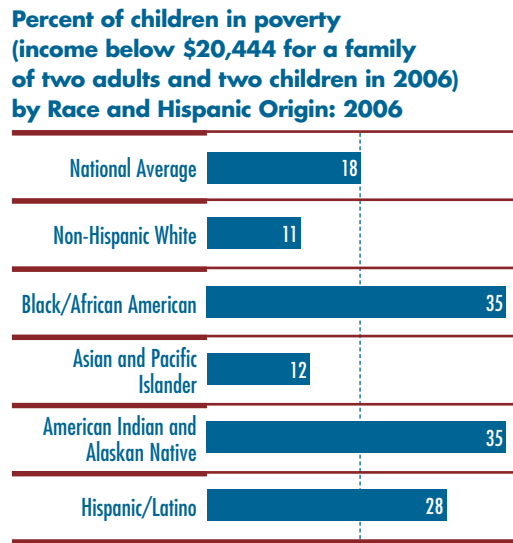
Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment: 2006



Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	North Dakota	24	27	Montana	33
2	Utah	25	27	Wyoming	33
3	Nebraska	26	29	Georgia	34
3	New Hampshire	26	29	Maine	34
5	Iowa	27	29	New York	34
5	Virginia	27	29	North Carolina	34
7	Connecticut	28	29	Ohio	34
7	Kansas	28	29	Oregon	34
7	Maryland	28	29	Texas	34
7	Minnesota	28	29	Washington	34
7	New Jersey	28	37	California	35
7	Wisconsin	28	37	Hawaii	35
13	South Dakota	29	37	Michigan	35
14	Delaware	30	40	Alabama	36
14	Massachusetts	30	40	Arkansas	36
14	Nevada	30	40	Oklahoma	36
14	Vermont	30	40	South Carolina	36
18	Colorado	31	40	Tennessee	36
18	Idaho	31	45	Kentucky	37
18	Illinois	31	46	New Mexico	38
18	Pennsylvania	31	47	West Virginia	39
22	Arizona	32	48	Alaska	42
22	Florida	32	48	Mississippi	42
22	Indiana	32	50	Louisiana	43
22	Missouri	32	N.R.	District of Columbia	46
22	Rhode Island	32			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Percent of Children in Poverty



NOTE: 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.

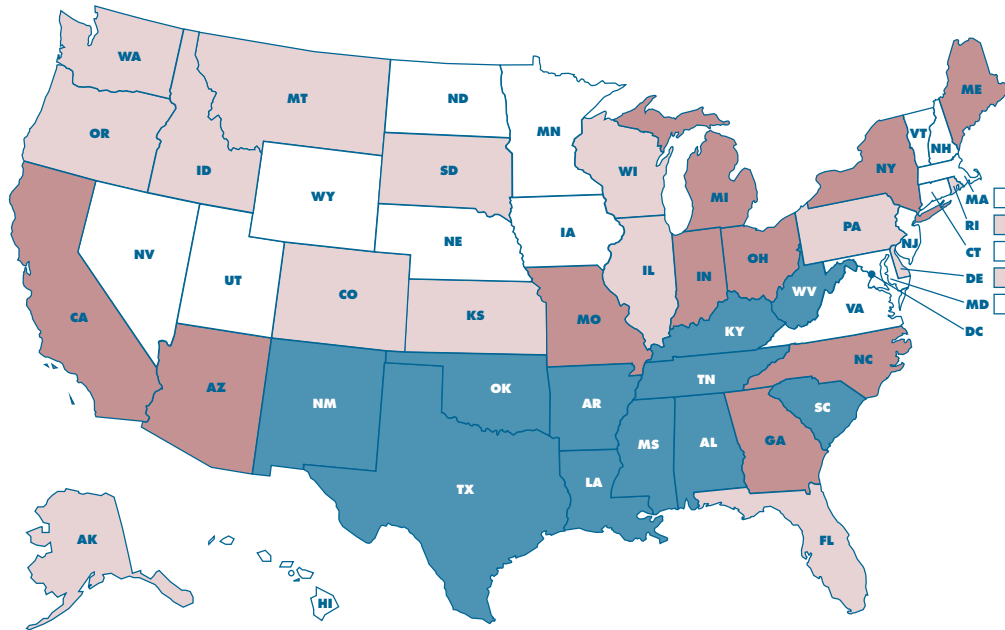
Given current economic conditions, our nation cannot ensure that all children have the opportunity to become productive members of our society. The Percent of Children in Poverty is perhaps the most global and widely used indicator of child well-being. Poverty is closely linked to many undesirable outcomes in such areas as health, education, emotional welfare, and delinquency. Our data are based on the official poverty measure as determined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The measure consists of a series of income thresholds based on family size and composition. The 2006 poverty line was \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children.

Despite our nation’s enormous wealth, a UNICEF Innocenti Research Center report shows that more children are living in relative poverty in the United States than in any other economically advanced nation. This gap partly reflects differences in private-sector income, but differences in governmental efforts to alleviate child poverty greatly accentuate the disparities.

- In 2006, 18 percent of children (13.3 million) were poor, up from 17 percent in 2000. This represents about 1 million more children living in poor households in 2006 than in 2000.
- Between 2000 and 2006, child poverty increased in 32 states (plus the District of Columbia), decreased in 14 states, and was unchanged in 4.
- Among the states, the child poverty rate for 2006 ranged from a low of 10 percent in Maryland and New Hampshire to a high of 30 percent in Mississippi.
- Although gaps remain, the poverty rate for children of color has declined, relative to that of non-Hispanic white children, over the past several decades.

For more information on children in poverty, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$20,444 for a family of two adults and two children in 2006): 2006

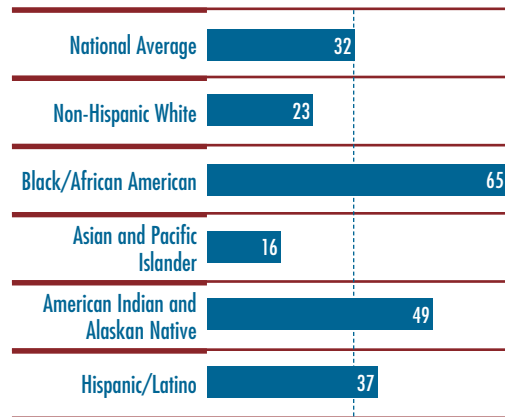


Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Maryland	10	24	Oregon	17
1	New Hampshire	10	24	Pennsylvania	17
3	Connecticut	11	24	South Dakota	17
3	Hawaii	11	30	California	18
5	Massachusetts	12	30	Indiana	18
5	Minnesota	12	30	Maine	18
5	New Jersey	12	30	Michigan	18
5	Utah	12	34	Missouri	19
5	Virginia	12	34	Ohio	19
5	Wyoming	12	36	Arizona	20
11	North Dakota	13	36	Georgia	20
11	Vermont	13	36	New York	20
13	Iowa	14	36	North Carolina	20
13	Nebraska	14	40	South Carolina	22
13	Nevada	14	41	Alabama	23
16	Alaska	15	41	Kentucky	23
16	Idaho	15	41	Tennessee	23
16	Rhode Island	15	44	Arkansas	24
16	Washington	15	44	Oklahoma	24
16	Wisconsin	15	44	Texas	24
21	Colorado	16	47	West Virginia	25
21	Delaware	16	48	New Mexico	26
21	Kansas	16	49	Louisiana	28
24	Florida	17	50	Mississippi	30
24	Illinois	17	N.R.	District of Columbia	33
24	Montana	17			

N.R.=Not Ranked.

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2006



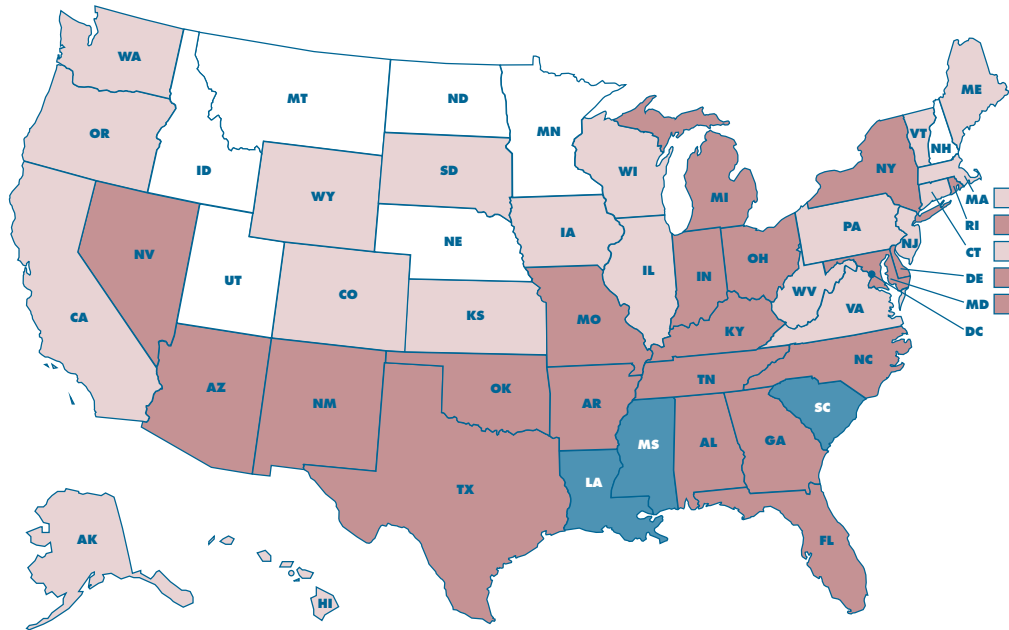
NOTE: Data for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks/African Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaskan Natives are for persons who selected only one race.

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 2006, 33 percent of single-parent families with related children had incomes below the poverty line, compared to 6 percent of married-couple families with children. Only about one-third of female-headed families reported receiving any child support or alimony payments in 2006. The U.S. Census Bureau defines single-parent families as those families headed by an unmarried adult.

- About 22 million children lived in single-parent families in 2006.
- Nationwide, there was a slight increase in the percent of children living in single-parent families, from 31 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2006.
- During this period, 7 states and the District of Columbia recorded a decrease in the percent of children living in single-parent families, 10 states reported no change in this measure, while the situation worsened in 33 states.
- In 2006, the Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families ranged from a low of 18 percent in Utah to a high of 45 percent in Mississippi.
- Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of African-American children lived in single-parent families, compared to a little more than one-third (37 percent) for Latinos and slightly less than one-fourth (23 percent) for non-Hispanic whites.

For more information on children in single-parent families, visit the Indicator Briefs and Definitions sections at www.kidscount.org/datacenter.

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families: 2006



- More than 20% better than state median (25 and lower)
- Up to 20% better than state median (26 to 31)
- Up to 20% worse than state median (32 to 37)
- More than 20% worse than state median (38 and higher)

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Utah	18	23	West Virginia	31
2	Idaho	21	28	Indiana	32
3	North Dakota	24	28	Maryland	32
4	Minnesota	25	28	Michigan	32
4	Montana	25	28	Missouri	32
4	Nebraska	25	32	Arizona	33
4	New Hampshire	25	32	Kentucky	33
8	Iowa	26	32	Ohio	33
9	Hawaii	27	32	Texas	33
9	South Dakota	27	36	Delaware	34
9	Wyoming	27	36	Nevada	34
12	Colorado	28	36	New York	34
12	Connecticut	28	36	Oklahoma	34
12	Kansas	28	40	Arkansas	35
12	Massachusetts	28	40	Florida	35
12	New Jersey	28	40	North Carolina	35
12	Wisconsin	28	40	Rhode Island	35
18	Oregon	29	40	Tennessee	35
18	Vermont	29	45	Georgia	36
18	Virginia	29	46	Alabama	37
18	Washington	29	46	New Mexico	37
22	Alaska	30	48	South Carolina	40
23	California	31	49	Louisiana	41
23	Illinois	31	50	Mississippi	45
23	Maine	31	N.R.	District of Columbia	62
23	Pennsylvania	31			

N.R.=Not Ranked.