Wilmington, DE (June 24, 2013) – A new KIDS COUNT® report ranks Delaware 22nd in the nation for overall child well-being. This state-by-state report on children’s well-being issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation is the 24th annual edition of the national KIDS COUNT Data Book.

This year’s Data Book uses 16 indicators to rank each state within four domains. The domains include:

- Economic Well-Being, which examines data related to child poverty, family employment, housing costs, and whether older teens not in school are working.
- Education, which looks at preschool opportunities, reading and math proficiency, and whether high school students graduate on time.
- Health, which looks at percentage of children who lack health insurance, child and teen death rates, low-birth weight babies, and alcohol or drug abuse among teens.
- Family and Community, which examines the percentage of children living in high-poverty areas, single-parent households, and education levels among heads of households, as well as teen birth rates.

According to the report, children in Delaware have made progress on indicators within the domains of education and health. Delaware ranks 10th in the nation on reading proficiency of our fourth grade students and 11th in the nation for children attending preschool. While Delaware continues to rank poorly- 40th in the nation- for our percentage of babies born at low-birthweight, data shows an improvement in this measure over 2005, revealing the impact of investments.
being made statewide related to low-birthweight and the closely connected issue of infant mortality.

Delaware’s children have gained only incremental steps in their economic well-being since 2010, falling short of where they stood before the recession. In 2011, the state’s child poverty rate stood at 17 percent- an increase of 7 thousand since 2005. The number of children living in households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing- 78 thousand in 2011- saw minor improvement from the previous year, but was still around 15 thousand more than in 2005. Similarly, the number of children whose parents lacked full-time, year-round employment was about 20 percent higher than in 2008.

New to this year’s Data Book are statistics on multiracial children, a rapidly growing population.

The annual Data Book is complemented by the newly redesigned- and mobile accessible- KIDS COUNT Data Center, which contains hundreds of measures of child well-being and allows users to create maps and graphs of data at the national, state and county level. To access information on Delaware go to http://datacenter.kidscount.org/de. Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation on this issue on Twitter @aecfkidscount and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT.

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About KIDS COUNT in Delaware

As one of fifty-three similar projects throughout the United States and the U.S. territories funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT in Delaware is housed in the Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware and is led by a board of committed and concerned child and family advocates from the public and private sectors. Since 1995, KIDS COUNT in Delaware has reported on the status of children in Delaware and, in partnership with the State of Delaware since 1998, has been monitoring the health and well-being of children and their families. Please visit our website www.dekidscount.org to learn more about our important work. Follow KIDS COUNT in Delaware and this issue on Twitter @dekidscount and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/dekidscount.