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Iowa Ranks 7th in Latest National KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report

Iowa ranks seventh nationally in the 2013 national KIDS COUNT report on child well-being, up one notch from the position the state held in 2011 and 2012. The 24th annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, compares and ranks the fifty states on 16 child and family well-being indicators.

Nationally, Iowa ranks in the top ten among states in three of the four areas presented in the report: fifth in Economic Well-Being, seventh in Health and eighth in Family and Community. The states ranks 15th in the fourth area, Education, when compared to the other states.

(more)
Among the indicators, Iowa did experience some deterioration in the percentages of children living in poverty and in single parent families, increasing 21 percent and 15 percent, respectively, since 2005. However, the percentage of children without health insurance and the low birthweight percentage both showed improvement, decreasing 33 percent and three percent, respectively, during the past few years. In addition, the percentage of students not graduating with their class decreased eight percent.

“Iowa’s overall ranking is indicative of the emphasis the residents of the state put on providing for their children and families, and we all should be proud of that,” said Michael Crawford, Iowa KIDS COUNT director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. “However, there are a few areas such as child poverty and single parent families that have worsened the past few years. It is extremely important, even in these financially austere times, that we still are able to provide needed supports and programs to improve upon these indicators.”

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* annually is produced and disseminated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland. The full report with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data will be available at 12:01 a.m. EDT, June 24, 2013 at http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Iowa Kids Count also produces its own Kids Count Data Book annually providing county, substate, state and national data.

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