

EMBARGOED UNTIL
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News from the 2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book
What Are the Opportunities and Well-Being Status of Rhode Island's Kids?

Rhode Island ranks number 15 nationally in a new state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. The 2009 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that since 2000, Rhode Island improved on six of the 10 measures affecting child well-being. Yet on three other measures, conditions worsened for Rhode Island's kids, and on one measure, conditions remained unchanged. The 20th annual *Data Book* also contains the Annie E. Casey Foundation's essay that takes stock of the country's progress in keeping track of children's well-being.

This year's *Data Book* is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center that contains hundreds of measures of child well-being covering national, state, county, and city information. To access information for Rhode Island go to datacenter.kidscount.org/ri.

Rhode Island ranks in the top 10 best on three indicators.

Rhode Island's teen death rate was the lowest in the nation in 2006, at 34 per 100,000 teens ages 15-19. Rhode Island has the ninth lowest child death rate (16 per 100,000 children ages 1-14) and the ninth lowest teen birth rate (28 per 1,000 females ages 15-19) in the U.S.

Teen birth rate declines to state's lowest level this decade.

The teen birth rate in Rhode Island has decreased 18 percent, from 34 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19 in 2000 to 28 births per 1,000 in 2006—the lowest level this decade for the state.

High school dropout rate falls in Rhode Island.

The percentage of Rhode Island teens ages 16 to 19 who were high school dropouts decreased from 10 percent in 2000 to 6 percent in 2007. The U.S. rate in 2007 was 7 percent.

Rise in low-birthweight babies.

The percentage of low-birthweight babies in Rhode Island increased from 7.2 percent in 2000 to 8.0 percent in 2006. The national rates of babies born low-birthweight also increased during this period. During 2006, nearly 1,000 births in Rhode Island were of low birthweight (less than 5.5 pounds at birth).