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Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases New Report *Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children*

In Rhode Island, Non-Hispanic White and Asian children have higher Race for Results index scores than African-American and Hispanic children

Both Asian children and Hispanic children in Rhode Island had Race for Results Index scores that were second lowest among the states

Providence, RI (April 1, 2014) – The national Annie E. Casey Foundation released a policy report, *Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children*, which compares how children are progressing on key milestones across racial and ethnic groups at the national and state levels. The data can better inform policymakers who create policies and programs that will benefit all children, while targeting strategies and investments where attention is needed most.

By 2018, children of color will represent the majority of children in the United States. The report highlights serious concerns that African-American, Latino, Native American and some subgroups of Asian-American children face profound barriers to success and calls for a collaborative, multi-sector approach to develop solutions.

Race for Results Index: Measuring Developmental Milestones

A key piece of the *Race for Results* publication is the unveiling of the new Race for Results index, which compares how children are progressing on key milestones across racial and ethnic groups at the national and state level. The index is based on 12 key indicators that measure a child's success for each stage of life, grouped into four areas: early childhood, education and early work, family supports, and neighborhood context. The index calculates a single composite score for each group placed on a scale of one (lowest) to 1,000 (highest).

Overall, the index shows that at the national level, no racial group has all children meeting all milestones. Across the United States, Asian and Pacific Islander children have the highest index score at 776, followed by non-Hispanic White children at 704. Scores for Hispanic (404), American-Indian (387) and African-American (345) children are lower, and this pattern holds true in nearly every state.

In Rhode Island, Black (372) and Hispanic (336) children had significantly lower Race for Results Index scores than White (740) and Asian (580) children. Rhode Island's Black and Hispanic children had lower rates of reading and math proficiency, lower educational attainment, were more likely to live in a single-parent family, and more likely to experience poverty than other racial and ethnic groups.

Rhode Island: More Diverse, Troubling Disparities

Rhode Island's children are becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. The Hispanic child population grew by 31% between 2000 and 2010 in Rhode Island, and Hispanic children now make up 21% of the state's children. In 2010, 64% of children in Rhode Island were non-Hispanic White, down from 73% in 2000.

Rhode Island's Asian and Latino children fared poorly when compared to their peers in other states. Both Asian children and Hispanic children in Rhode Island had Race for Results index scores that were second lowest among the states. Asian and Latino are broad categories, each containing many races, ethnicities, and cultures. For this report, the term Asian includes Asian Indian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and other Asian groups and the term Latino includes people from Mexico, Central and South America and other Spanish-speaking countries. Rhode Island's Asian and Hispanic children were more likely to live in low-income families, compared to most other states.

"The Race for Results index show distressing disparities for our children across racial and ethnic groups here in Rhode Island," said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. "Meeting these key developmental milestones can determine how successful a child will be throughout their entire life. We must raise the bar of opportunity for all children to make sure they can achieve their full potential."

Recommendations for Improvement

Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children makes four policy recommendations to help ensure that all children and their families achieve their full potential:

- Gather and analyze racial and ethnic data to inform policies and decision making;
- Utilize data and impact assessment tools to target investments to yield the greatest impact for children of color;
- Develop and implement promising and proven programs and practices focused on improving outcomes for children and youth of color; and
- Integrate strategies that explicitly connect vulnerable groups to new jobs and opportunities in economic and workforce development.

"This first-time index shows that many in our next generation, especially kids of color, are off track in many issue areas and in nearly every region of the country," said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation. "Race for Results is a call to action that requires serious and sustained attention from the private, nonprofit, philanthropic and government sectors to create equitable opportunities for children of color, who will play an increasingly large role in our nation's well-being and prosperity."

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. In addition to the Race for Results Index, the Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center has up-to-date and comprehensive national, state and local statistics on child well-being.