



RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT
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National *KIDS COUNT Data Book* on the status of American children released

Rhode Island ranks among top 5 best in country for health

Providence, RI (June 24, 2013) – The 24th annual national *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a state-by-state report on children's well-being issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, finds that Rhode Island ranks 26th in the nation for overall child well-being (1st is the best and 50th is the worst). Rhode Island ranked last in New England, following New Hampshire (1), Vermont (2), Massachusetts (3), Connecticut (9) and Maine (13).

The 2013 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* provides a comprehensive portrait of how children are faring in the U.S. as a whole and in each of the 50 states. State-by-state rankings and supplemental data will be available in the newly redesigned KIDS COUNT Data Center at 12:01 a.m. EDT, June 24, 2013, at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

According to the 2013 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*., American children and families show some signs of improvement despite rising poverty rates. Education and health indicators continue to show progress across the country, while economic well-being indicators continue to show the negative impact of the recession. These trends are mirrored in the Rhode Island findings.

Rhode Island's national rankings for child wellbeing

State rankings are based on an index of 16 indicators in four key areas. While Rhode Island ranks 26th in the nation for overall child well-being, rankings were also issued for the four key areas:

- *Health:* Rhode Island ranks 5th
- *Education:* Rhode Island ranks 24th
- *Economic Well-Being:* Rhode Island ranks 31st
- *Family and Community:* Rhode Island ranks 32nd

Indicators of child well-being in Rhode Island

There were several indicators on which Rhode Island stood out.

Rhode Island is tied for 1st best in the country for the lowest child and teen death rate (Health)

- Rhode Island's child death rate and teen death rate improved from 22 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19 in 2006 to 17 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19 in 2010. The national child and teen death rate was 26 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19 in 2010.

"The fact that the child and teen death rate has decreased is a critical indicator of Rhode Island's commitment to children's well-being," stated Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. "Despite continued economic challenges in our state, Rhode Island has continued to protect our most vulnerable children and families by maintaining our commitment to covering kids through RItE Care."

Increase in Children Living in Families without Full-Time Parental Employment (Economic Well-Being)

- In 2011, 35 percent of children in Rhode Island were living in families where no parent had full-time, year-round employment. This is an increase from 30 percent of children without full-time, year-round parental employment in 2008, and 34 percent in 2010.

Teens Not in School and Not Working (Economic Well-Being)

- The rate of Rhode Island teens ages 16 to 19 who were not in school and not working increased to 7 percent in 2011, an increase from 5 percent in 2010. This is slightly lower than the national average of 8 percent of teens not in school and not working.

Children in Families without a High School Diploma (Family and Community)

- In 2011, 14 percent of Rhode Island children lived in families where the household head lacks a diploma. Rhode Island was ranked 35th in the nation for this indicator.

"The negative effects of the recession continue to be shown in the data for children in Rhode Island and throughout the U.S.," noted Bryant. "*The 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book* provides important data for policymakers and state leadership to make wise investments in education and support programs to help lift families out of poverty."

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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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, education, safety, and development of Rhode Island's children and youth. It is one of fifty state-level organizations that work in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the social condition of children at the state and local level across the country.