

# 2003 Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book

**Steve Seninger**  
KIDS COUNT Director

**Daphne Herling**  
Director of Development &  
Community Outreach

**Klarissa Jensen**  
Data Coordinator & Analyst

**Kyle Nicholson**  
Data Assistant

**Barbara Wainwright,**  
**Shannon Furniss,**  
**Sherry Devlin,**  
Publication Editing & Design

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# Introduction

As the Montana KIDS COUNT staff prepares the 2003 data book, the wildfire season is at its height statewide, and in many communities, news bulletins tell us to keep children inside to protect them from the poor air quality in our smoke-filled valleys. Sadly, no such alerts tell us of the dangers facing Montana children who live with poverty, abuse, emotional turmoil, and mental illness. No news bulletins tell us how to protect our children from the poor health created by lack of access to health insurance, family instability, or car accidents.

However, by compiling key data about children, we at Montana KIDS COUNT can provide a resource that helps guide decision-makers at the state and county level as they work to improve or stabilize the well-being of kids. Today, with so much data available from so many sources, there is a need for easily accessible and timely information, so the social and economic status of children can be systematically tracked at the state and local level. This is the third year that Montana KIDS COUNT has been produced by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at The University of Montana in Missoula, and we are starting to bring a long-term perspective to that tracking.

Despite this being a book of numbers, trends and patterns, we must never lose our focus on the children of Montana. These youngsters are important to us, whether we're parents, grandparents, caregivers, or

teachers. Indeed, the well-being of Montana kids should concern everyone – not only because they are a major demographic presence, but also because they are a source of joy (and sometimes frustration), and because they are a social and moral reflection of the adult society responsible for their care. If we are to live up to our obligations, we need to know how children are doing in all areas of their lives.



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# Montana KIDS COUNT Overview

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a state-by-state effort to track the status of children throughout the United States. The purpose of Montana KIDS COUNT is to provide policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being for use in community, state, and national discussions of how best to guarantee a successful future for all children. At the national level, one of the principal activities of the KIDS COUNT program is the publication of the annual "KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being," which reports data on 10 leading indicators of child well-being from every state.

In Montana, the KIDS COUNT project is a statewide collaborative effort bringing together a wide range of organizations, including businesses, nonprofits and government agencies interested in or involved with children and families.

The goals of Montana KIDS COUNT are to:

- Identify the needs of Montana's children by collecting the best available data on children and publishing and disseminating the "Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book" annually;
- Develop new and better measures of child well-being;
- Inform policymakers and citizens on the progress made by, and the problems yet facing, Montana children.

Montana KIDS COUNT is based in the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in the School of Business Administration at The University of Montana in Missoula. Montana KIDS COUNT has worked with government agencies, nonprofits, and child advocacy groups throughout Montana to collect data on child safety, early care and learning, economic well-being, education, health, and juvenile justice.

## What's New in the 2003 Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book?

There are three new additions to the "2003 Montana KIDS COUNT Data Book." The section on demographics includes data showing broad patterns in how kids spend their time when they are not in school. An expanded section on Montana counties includes a new County Poverty Index that should help county governments understand how they are doing relative to other counties. This year, we have also added a section on American Indian children, an important sub-group representing 10 percent of Montana's kids.



## Some Trends from the Past Three Years: Gains and Losses in the Well-Being of Montana's Children

There have been no radical changes in the economic well-being of children in recent years, the biggest positive factor being that Montana's economy has not slowed at the same rate as has the rest of the country. But with a slowing state economy, the number of cases in the state's welfare-to-work program and the number of people receiving food stamps has gone up in Montana. Our child poverty rate of 19.7 percent has not gone down. And we still have one of the nation's highest rates of uninsured children, 17 percent, which means more than 40,000 Montana children essentially have no health care.

Overall, the state has seen a slight drop in the number of children enrolled in school. In 2000-2001, statewide enrollment was 161,400; in the 2002-03 school year, it is 161,404. There is good news, though. The student dropout rate has decreased to 3.8 percent from the previous two years' 4.2 percent.

And finally, like most other states around the country, Montana's tight budget situation created a tense and contentious legislative session in 2003.

Absent any new sources of revenue, members were left to squeeze savings from already strapped programs to provide additional funding for other, desperately needed programs.

### **Montana Compared to Other States**

It comes as no surprise that Montana has distressingly high numbers of children living in poverty. Between 1998 and 2000, the state ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment and about 38<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of children living in poverty. The lack of full-time employment for parents has far-reaching problems for children living in such households. These children are much more likely to lack access to the health and family benefits that usually come with full-time, stable jobs. Parents lacking secure employment are often forced to take two or three jobs to cobble together enough income to support a family. This is especially true in Montana, where 32 percent of children under age 18 live in working poor families.

Montana also ranks near the bottom among all states in the rate of both teen and child deaths. From 1998 to 2000, Montana ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in teen deaths by accident, homicide and suicide (ages 15–17). And Montana ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the rate of child deaths (ages 1–14). And the numbers themselves can never express the emotional loss for Montana families and communities when a child dies from disease, accident, or suicide. For that loss, there is no adequate measure.

The most promising note is that Montana showed

significant improvement in infant mortality rates between 1990 and 2000, with an improvement of 32 percent compared to the national rate of 25 percent. Other areas of improvement have been teen birth rates and the percentage of teens (ages 16–19) not attending school and not working. Teen birth rates dropped and showed a 21 percent improvement, with Montana ranking 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this indicator. The percentage of teens not in school or working dropped by 13 percent in Montana during the decade.

### **Collecting the Data**

Many different data sources have been used in this report and they do not always correspond to the same time period or to the same age breakdowns. As a result, patterns and trends sometimes cover slightly different time periods and different age groups. Data from official state agency sources typically lag several years behind the current year, and county data are not always available for some of the KIDS COUNT measures at the state level.

This report is based on the most current and reliable data. But it is important to remember that data alone cannot tell the whole story. Other, less quantitative information sources, including community organizations, individuals, Montana businesses and nonprofits are also important for the KIDS COUNT profile of child well-being in Montana. The Montana KIDS COUNT data book reflects the cooperation and generous assistance of state agencies and nonprofit organizations throughout Montana.



# Demographics

The number of children in Montana has remained relatively constant over the past decade. Between 1990 and 2000, there was a slight increase in the number of kids under age 18. But in the two years since the 2000 Census, there has been a slight decrease in this age group; 2002 estimates show that school-age children between the ages of 5 and 17 still account for a significant portion of the state's population.

Montana's population of American Indian children, accounting for almost 10 percent of children under age 18, is growing faster than the white-youth cohort in many parts of the state. Moreover, American Indian kids are heavily represented in Montana's rural areas, where they represent 18 percent of the youth population compared to less than 4 percent of youth in urban areas.

The number of American Indian children on tribal lands and reservations is high, representing 38 percent of the total reservation population. This youth demographic pattern has significant implications for the

region's school systems, its future work force and for economic development opportunities.

Single-parent households and working parents are two other demographic factors that stand out as major influences on Montana kids. Eighteen percent of children under age 18 were living in single-parent households in 1990, a percentage that increased to slightly more than 21 percent by Census 2000 – representing 10,000 more Montana kids in single-parent households.

The percentage of kids under age 18 with both parents in the labor force increased by more than 5 percentage points between 1990 and 2000. This increase was more dramatic for children under age 6, who had an almost 7-percentage-point increase in the number of families with both parents in labor force – from 58.4 percent in 1990 to 64.9 percent by 2000. Both the single-parent and working-parent factors contributed to U.S. Census estimates that there are nearly 7 million latch-key kids in America; that is,

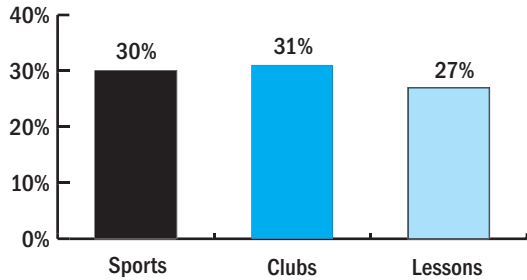
**Table 1**  
**Selected Demographic Characteristics for**  
**Montana Children, 2000 and 2002**

STATE SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE POPULATION UNDER AGE 18		
	2000	2002
Total population	902,195	909,453*
Population under age 18	230,062	216,000*
Males under age 18	118,245	111,249*
Females under age 18	111,817	105,071*
Children under age 5	54,869	52,793*
Children ages 5 to 17	175,193	163,207*
RACE AND ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE		
Total Population under 18 years	230,062	n/a
American Indian and Alaska Native	22,082	n/a
Black or African American	922	n/a
White	196,699	n/a
Hispanic origin	7,350	n/a
Other	3,245	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), 2002.

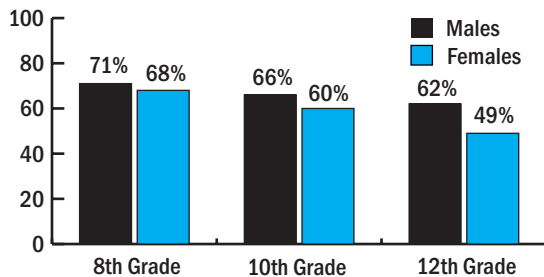
\* = estimates and n/a=not available

**Figure 1**  
**Percent of U.S. Children 6 to 17 Years Old**  
**Participating in Extracurricular Activities**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2000.

**Figure 2**  
**Percentage of U.S. Students in Grades**  
**8, 10, and 12 Who Participate in**  
**School Athletics, by Gender, 2001**



Source: Original analysis by Child Trends of Monitoring the Future data, 2001.

children who watch themselves while their parents are at work.

How do kids spend their time, given these changing family work patterns? Most Montana kids go to school, play sports, join clubs and youth organizations, attend lessons, and work part-time. While it is nearly impossible to count and assign kids to specific activities, it is possible to identify some broad patterns of activity. The number of kids in school is straightforward. There were 161,000 K-12 students in public, private, and home schools in 2002-2003.

Montana's older teenagers are active in the labor market, many of them in addition to going to school. In 2001, there were an estimated 33,000 teenagers between 16 and 19 years of age in the state's labor force, out of an estimated population of 53,000. About 12 percent of the 33,000 teenagers who tried to get a job and earn some money did not find work. Their chances of employment in 2001 were slightly higher than the previous year, when the teen unemployment rate was 16 percent.

Other activities for Montana kids, besides school and work, were many and varied, although there is an absence of Montana-specific data. Looking at national patterns and trends in children's activities, about 30 percent of children 6 to 17 years of age participated in sports in 2000 (Figure 1). Club activities attracted 31 percent of kids and lessons ranging from music to karate attracted 27 percent of school-age kids in the United States.

Much of the sports participation came through school athletics. Nationally, 68 percent of eighth-graders participated in school sports, with participation dropping to 62 percent for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and 55 percent for 12<sup>th</sup>-graders (Figure 2). Sports and play are important, active forms of social learning and personal development in contrast to the alternatives: watching television, hanging out, or other less constructive activities.

Nationally, many parents admit that television has become a surrogate babysitter; TV watching was first on the list of outside-school activities followed by watching videos, and then playing, outdoor/nature activities and reading. Youth behavior data collected by the federal Centers for Disease Control show that for a sample of Montana high school students 23 percent watched more than three hours of TV per day, compared to a median over all states of 33 percent.

Crime and run-ins with the law involve a small number of kids. In Montana, juvenile arrests for all crimes were relatively constant at just under 15,000 kids per year. Another 1,561 kids were arrested for crimes against people, and 1,492 were arrested for drug offenses. These crime rates have held fairly constant over the past several years, with no large increases.

High rates of volunteerism in community affairs or some kind of volunteer work by kids is an upside indicator of how youth spend their time. National data ([www.childtrendsdatabank.org](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org)) show that teenagers ages 16 to 19 are more likely to have volunteered in the past year than any other age group under the age of 35. The percent of 12<sup>th</sup>-graders who reported volunteering once a month increased by 7 percentage points to a rate of 35 percent between 1991 and 2001.

# Social and Economic Opportunity

Social and economic opportunities for Montana families and children are related to the performance of the Montana economy. In 2001, the state's per-capita personal income ranked 47<sup>th</sup> of the 50 states and District of Columbia. This is not a recent development. Low incomes are a long-term structural problem for Montana; the state ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 1990. And it is not just per-capita income. Montana's earnings per worker, average wages, and other measures of personal well-being also rank in the lowest tier of states. During the nation's recent economic downturn, Montana has fared slightly better than the country as a whole. Unemployment rates in Montana have not increased as quickly as have rates nationwide. In June 2003, the unemployment rate for the state was 4.6 percent, where the nation's average unemployment rate was 6.2 percent.

Montana has a high rate of child poverty, with 19.7 percent of its children living at or below the poverty level. The federal poverty rate is defined by family income; for instance, an income of \$18,400 per year is the poverty level for a family of four. The child poverty rate includes the 9 percent of children who live in extreme poverty, defined as families whose income is 50 percent below the poverty rate. The national average for children in extreme poverty is 7 percent. On a positive note, 53 percent of female-headed families receive child support or alimony in Montana, compared to 36 percent in the rest of the country.

These economic conditions are challenges to working parents and their children, although there are many advantages that make Montana a great place for kids to grow up. Montana has one of the lower crime rates in the nation. In 2000, the state was ranked 31<sup>st</sup> highest (best) in the Crime Index rating among all states and 44<sup>th</sup> best for violent crimes ([www.disastercenter.com/crime/](http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/)). In a 2002 poll conducted by the Bureau of Business & Economic Research, almost half of Montanans surveyed were lifelong residents of their communities. When asked what they liked most about their communities, a large number identified Montana's rural character and natural amenities, with economic opportunity listed as a secondary factor in determining why they liked or did not like where they lived.

## The Cost of Being Poor

The national KIDS COUNT sponsor, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, provides different approaches to assess the conditions that best offer children a healthy



environment in which to grow and develop. The Casey Foundation's long-held commitment is to strengthen the nation's most vulnerable families by increasing their ability to provide real economic security for their kids.

This concept is directly related to welfare reform. Montana, along with other states, is working to shorten its welfare rolls through a variety of strategies included in Families Achieving Independence in Montana (FAIM), the state's implementation of the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). However, there are implications for parents seeking employment, as jobs typically leave parents less available to their children's social support network, to volunteer at schools, and to monitor their children's activities. Moreover, just going to work in Montana does not necessarily mean financial independence; it frequently means joining the state's working-poor families with the consequence of often losing access to public programs.

Child-care expenditures greatly impact Montana's FAIM program; in 2001, there were 12,524 slots available to children whose parent was participating in FAIM. This number certainly does not reflect the overall number of children who are in day care around the state, either in licensed or unlicensed facilities. The need for high-quality day care for working parents is an issue that affects families, communities, and businesses throughout the state. Silly Goose Daycare in Missoula is an excellent example of a group home child-care program, which not only seeks to provide children with a nurturing environment, but also mentors other programs working toward accreditation.

**Table 2**  
**Montana Kids Social and Economic Opportunity Data**

	Montana current period	Montana previous period
People under age 18 in poverty for 2001	45,667*	50,000 (Y=2000)
Estimated median household income for 2001	\$32,098*	\$32,045 (Y=2000)
Monthly average number of families, with dependent children, that participated in TANF in fiscal year 2002	5,659	4,765 (Y=2001)
Monthly average number of children that participated in TANF in fiscal year 2002	10,501	8,952 (Y=2001)
Monthly average number of recipients of all ages that received Food Stamps in fiscal year 2002	63,766	61,051 (Y=2001)
Percent of students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade that were eligible for free-reduced lunch in academic year 2002-2003	32.6%	32.8% (Y=2001-02)
Number of women, infants and children that participated in the WIC Program during the calendar year 2002	21,475	13,424 (Y =2001)
Per Capita personal income for 2001	\$24,044	\$22,518 (Y=2000)
Total dollar amount of children that participated in the Day Care Program (Child Care) for fiscal year 2002	\$20,274,713	12,524 (Y=2001)**
Number of families that participated in the Child Care Scholarship (subsidy) program for calendar year 2002	69,886	—
Overall unemployment rate (2002 annual averages)	4.6	4.6 (Y=2001)
Total Civilian Labor Force, number in thousands (2001 annual averages)	465	474 (Y=1999)
Civilian Labor Force between 16 to 19 years of age, number in thousands (2001 annual averages)	28	35 (Y=2000)
Civilian non-institutional population between 16 to 19 years of age, number in thousands (2001 annual averages)	53	62 (Y=2000)
Teen Unemployment Rate, 16 to 19 years of age (2001 annual averages)	11.9	16 (Y=2000)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), 2002.

\* Estimates model 1999 reported in the March 2000 Current Population Survey released in October 2002.

\*\*Number of childcare slots used by families receiving FAIM.

In June 2003, the number of families receiving benefits through FAIM was 6,323, including 11,735 children on the program, an increase of 5,659 from the average case load in 2002. In 2001, the average monthly case load was 4,765, with an average of 8,952 children participating in the program.

The number of Montanans receiving food stamps has increased steadily, with the caseloads increasing from 27,613 in 2002 and to 30,927 in 2003. An increase in the number of families seeking assistance is to be expected as the economy slows down. To balance the increase, families receiving TANF saw a 25 percent reduction in their cash benefits in mid-2003.

When parents go to work at low-wage jobs, the

costs of child care, transportation and housing in a state the size of Montana are often beyond the reach of working-poor families. Many rely on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as a tax reduction and a wage supplement for low- and moderate-income working families. Sixteen states also offer an EITC at the state level, and these have in fact reduced child poverty, while supporting welfare-to-work and cutting taxes for families struggling to make ends meet. Legislation was introduced in the 2001 Montana Legislature to provide this type of state-based EITC to working poor families but did not attract the support needed to pass.

# Health

Health insurance coverage and access to health care are major health policy issues for Montana's children and young adults, as the state has one of the highest uninsured rates for children in the nation. In many states, insurance coverage comes as private health insurance provided through employers; about 60 percent of the nation's insured population has employment-based coverage. Only about 55 percent of Montanans get their insurance on the job. Montana has so many small employers, 60 percent of whom do not offer insurance to their workers, that it's difficult for working parents, especially those in low-wage jobs, to get health insurance. And children who have no health insurance either go without health care or, in some cases, receive health care through public-funded programs that are a frequent target of budget cutbacks. Lack of health insurance means children have no mainstream source of medical care.

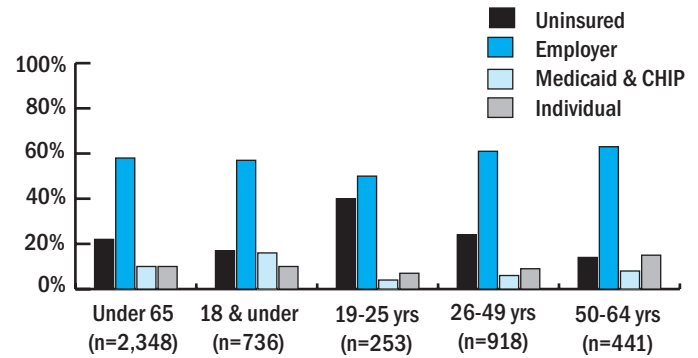
## Health Insurance Coverage

During the first six months of 2003, the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) in collaboration with the state Department of Health and Human Services conducted a statewide survey of more than 5,000 Montanans on health insurance coverage and access to health care. Results of the survey showed that 41,500 Montana kids age 18 and younger do not have any health insurance, public or private. The 17-percent uninsured rate for Montana children is one of the highest in the nation; only three states have higher rates. The 39-percent uninsured rate for young people between ages 19 and 25 is an even more alarming indicator of what Montana kids with unmet health care needs face as they grow up.

Uninsured rates are even higher for Montana kids in low-income households and in American Indian families. Montana's uninsured rate of 22 percent for all people under age 65 doubles for those living in households where income is below the federal poverty level – and increases to 38 percent when the family is Indian.

Uninsured children usually do not have a regular, family doctor and do not have access to standard types of health care such as check-ups and immunizations, unless they are available through public health programs. Children without regular health care can develop health conditions that could be treated in a doctor's office but, if left untreated, can escalate and result in expensive emergency room visits and hospitalization.

**Figure 3**  
Insurance Coverage by Age and Type for Montana, Residents Under 65 Years of Age, 2003



Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana-Missoula.

Public health programs such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) have traditionally filled some of the uninsured gap for Montana children. About 16 percent of Montana kids age 18 and under receive health coverage from Medicaid or CHIP, one of the highest coverage rates from these programs of any age group. In spite of the important health care access role played by public health programs, there are limitations because of government budget woes and long distances in rural areas. Estimates of the number of children eligible for, but not receiving, Medicaid or CHIP are 24,000 children age 18 years and younger.

Whenever there are cutbacks in Medicaid or an insufficient state investment in CHIP, the result is detrimental for children who cannot access basic wellness care. A positive outcome of the 2003 legislative session was that although the session's only "CHIP bill" failed, an amendment was added to the state budget bill to allow private contributions to be used to draw down the federal match.

Not all uninsured Montanans are low-income families, either. A profile of Montana's 171,000

**Table 3**  
**Health Indicators for Montana Kids**

<b>GENERAL HEALTH</b>	<b>Number</b>
Percent of third grade children who have received protective sealants on at least one permanent molar tooth in 2001-2002	46%
Percent of children without health insurance in 2002	17%
Average number of children per month, between ages 0 to 19, who were Medicaid recipients in FY 2002	31,163
Percent of potentially Medicaid eligible children who have received services paid by the Medicaid Program in FY 2002	31%
Average number of children per month enrolled in the CHIP program (average for calendar year 2002)	9,415
Medicaid Mental Health monthly average number of cases for 2002	8,682
State Fund Mental Health monthly average number of cases for 2002	2,466
<b>INFANTS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>	<b>Number</b>
Total number of live births in calendar year 2002	11,045
Total number of live births to teen mothers in calendar year 2002 (age of mother under 19)	1,277
Teen births as a percent of total live births, 2002	11.6
Average number of infant deaths (under 1 year of age) from 2000 to 2002	72
Average number of neonatal deaths (under 28 days) from 2000 to 2002	46
Total number of live births in calendar year 2002 with low birthweight, weight less than 2,500 grams (about 5 pounds, 8 ounces)	758
Percent of children through age 2 seen by a health care provider who have completed immunizations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenza, Hepatitis B in 2002	91%
Percent of infants born to pregnant women receiving prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of pregnancy, 2002	83%
Percent of newborns with at least one screening for each of PKU, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, hemoglobinopathies, 2001	99%
Percent of newborns who have been screened for hearing impairment before hospital discharge in 2000	98%
Percent of very low birthweight infants (<1,500 grams) delivered at facilities for high-risk deliveries and neonates in 2002	76%

Source: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

uninsured residents from the BBER project showed that 86 percent are white, 92 percent have a high school education, more than 70 percent are above the poverty level, and 77 percent are employed. That means many of Montana's uninsured kids come from households with higher education and middle income levels and with parents who work full-time.

### **Public Health Issues in Montana Kids**

Overweight and obese children are another major health-care issue in Montana, and nationwide. The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that 25 percent of American children are overweight. The percent of seriously overweight kids has doubled among children ages 6 to 11 – and now sits at 15

percent. Kids who are overweight have a much higher likelihood (20-80 percent) of being overweight adults and candidates for coronary artery and heart disease, as well as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol abnormalities, and asthma.

There are no direct estimates of overweight children in Montana, although there are data on physical activity and exercise. Youth behavior data collected by the Centers for Disease

Control show that 68 percent of Montana high school students participated in vigorous physical activity. Enrollment in PE classes where students exercised for more than 20 minutes was greater in Montana than in other states in the sample. A high percentage of female high school students in Montana exercised to lose weight

or to avoid gaining weight (60 percent), also a higher percentage than in many other states. On the down side, nationally and in Montana, a small proportion of students, especially females, took diet pills, powders, or liquids to lose weight (7.2 percent) and a smaller proportion (5.4 percent) vomited or took laxatives to lose weight or to avoid gaining weight. Montana students were similar to the national average in their eating habits, with just 19 percent reporting eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

Eat Right Montana, a statewide coalition promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles, supports healthy options in local schools. Central Middle School in Whitefish is a school-nutrition success story for the connection it makes between good nutrition, physical activity, and learning. Central School has removed soft drink and candy from its vending machines, substituting 100-percent juices and healthier snack choices such as milk, yogurt, baked chips, and fruit. Healthful a la carte offerings in the lunchroom combined with recess before lunch have reduced lunchtime discipline problems and improved student behavior and attentiveness during the class period after lunch. Keys to this success story were the collection of data on behavior and discipline problems reported in the lunchroom and after lunch, and building awareness among students, parents, and food service workers.



The oral health of Montana kids has been a challenging health-care issue because of a shortage of dental professionals and the small number of dentists and dental hygienists available to children covered by Medicaid and CHIP. In 1999, 21 percent of all Medicaid-eligible people and 25 percent of kids in CHIP received dental care. Low Medicaid reimbursement of about 50-55 percent of usual charges for adults and

about 72 percent for children have created a reliance on volunteer dentists and hygienists who report yearlong waiting lists of 500 to 1,300 patients.

The 2003 Montana Legislature passed several pieces of legislation aimed at improving access to dental care, including a bill that allows students and retirees in dentistry and dental hygiene to

work in supervised, volunteer settings. The Legislature also voted to fund a university-level dental hygiene program in Great Falls.

### Early Childhood Health

Montana has done a good job of addressing early childhood health needs, thanks to effective public health programs – and despite the lack of insurance for large numbers of working parents and their children. The percent of third-grade kids receiving protective teeth sealants was 46 percent in 2002, double the rate during the late 1990s (Table 3). Montana's immunization rates for kids age 2 and younger continue to be above 90 percent, which again is a gain of more than 5 percentage points over the late 1990s. Public health agencies at the state and local levels have conducted immunization programs against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and other illnesses, making Montana's 90-plus percent immunization rate higher than the national rate of 71 percent.

The state's high rates of newborn screening for a variety of health conditions, including hypothyroidism and galactosemia, were 1 percentage point shy of 100 in 2001. The high proportion of pregnant women who receive prenatal care in their first trimester, and the percent of newborns screened for hearing impairment before they leave the hospital continue to be source of pride for Montana's health-care providers.

# Education and Schooling

For a society to prosper, it must be well educated. One way a society commits to accomplishing this task is through its education system. School success or failure is a reflection of the surrounding community and its members and it happens at the school district level.

Montana has 531 school districts, encompassing 817 schools. Overall, the state saw slight changes in enrollment for the 2002-03 school year. Public schools

covering grades K-12 experienced a decline of 5,111 students, but still represented 93 percent of the state's total school enrollment. Grades K-8 accounted for 67 percent of the public school population, with grades 9-12 making up the balance of 33 percent. Private school enrollment dropped by 145 students, but still represented 5 percent of the total state enrollment. Home and preschools saw small increases throughout Montana. Home schools added 217 students, an

**Table 4**  
**Montana Kids Education and Schooling**

<b>EDUCATION AND LEARNING</b>	<b>State Level</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Total Public, Private, and Home School Enrollment (K-12) for academic year 2002-2003	161,404	100%
Percent Public		93%
Percent Private		5%
Percent Home School		2%
Student Dropout Rate in academic year 2001-2002		4%
Students enrolled in Special Education in academic year 2002-2003	19,162	
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR</b>		
Total Pre-Kindergarten enrollment	665	
Total K-12 enrollment	149,330	100%
Total K-8 enrollment	100,417	67%
Total 9-12 enrollment	48,913	33%
<b>PRIVATE SCHOOLS 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR</b>		
Total K-12 enrollment	8,286	100%
Total K-8 enrollment	6,137	74%
Total 9-12 enrollment	2,149	26%
<b>HOME SCHOOLING 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR</b>		
Total K-12 enrollment	3,788	100%
Total K-8 enrollment	2,893	76%
Total 9-12 enrollment	895	24%

Source: Montana Office of Public Instruction, [www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us).



approximate 2 percent increase from the last year. Preschool enrollment was up by 156 students. According to the Montana Public School Enrollment Data, 10,554 students graduated from high school in 2001-02. Graduates for the 2002-03 school year were projected to be 10,710.

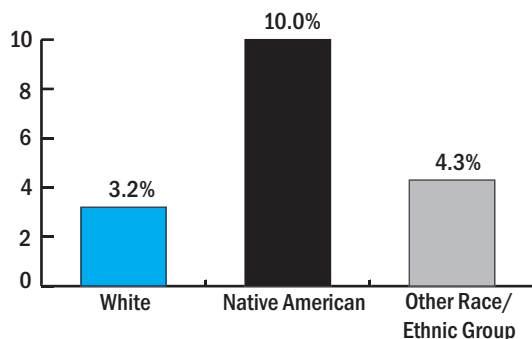
### Dropout Rates

It is good news that the student dropout rate decreased to 3.8 percent from the previous year's 4.2 percent. Addressing dropout rates is challenging, with the primary influences being a student's low income, lack of belonging or alienation, poor school performance, inability to see school relevance, dislike for

school, behavior problems, a poorly educated family, low self-esteem, less parental monitoring, and low skill levels. Children who possess two or more indicators are at greater risk of dropping out of school.

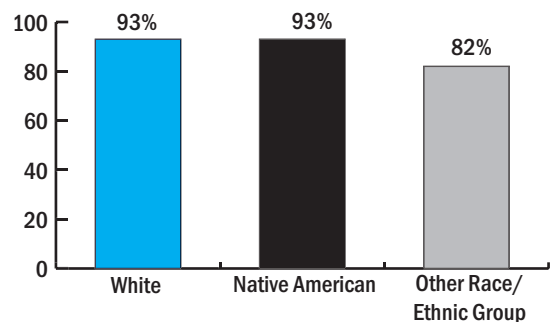
For example, students who experience low income, low skills, and come from a poorly educated family are about twice as likely to drop out of school as students who face none of those obstacles. Academic failure can be the result of many factors, but can turn into low self-esteem, alienation, a dislike for school, and the inability to see school relevance. Students who feel the need to drop out of school rarely attribute the decision to the loss or lack of their desire to learn.

**Figure 4**  
**High School Dropout Rate for Montana High School Students, by Race, 2001 - 2002**



Source: Montana Office of Public Instruction, [www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us).

**Figure 5**  
**Average Graduation Rate of 12th Grade Montana Students by Race, 2001-2002**



Source: Montana Office of Public Instruction, [www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us).

**Table 5**  
**Montana Head Start Data, 2002**

<b>HEAD START</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Last year's numbers</b>
Total actual enrollment	4,778	100.0%	4,455
Total number of children with disabilities	656	13.7%	642
Children up to date on all immunizations appropriate for their age in 2002	4,102	85.8%	3,938
Children referred for mental health treatment in	210	4.40%	295
Children who have completed a professional dental examination	3,201	67.0%	3,356
Total families enrolled in the program	4,401		4,146
Percent of families needing child care who received Head Start full day services	505	10.6%	15.00%
Families receiving TANF benefits	1,173		1,361
Families receiving TANF benefits as a percent of total enrollment		24.5%	32.83%
Number of programs undertaking special initiatives to serve homeless children and their families			13
Total number of homeless children served	166		
<b>RACE AND ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START</b>			
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,935	40.5%	1,748
Asian	15	0.3%	24
African American or Black	62	1.0%	70
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	7	0.1%	7
White	2,529	52.9%	2,465
Hispanic or Latino Origin	135	2.8%	132
Bi-racial, Multi-racial, and other	104	2.2%	0
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF HEAD START KIDS</b>			
Total number of children with health insurance	3,654	76.5%	3,701
Children enrolled in Medicaid/EPSTD	2,473	51.7%	2,462
Children enrolled in the CHIP Program	183	3.8%	166
Children covered by private health insurance	541	11.3%	540
Children covered by other health insurance	454	9.5%	717

Source: Montana Head Start Program.



### Head Start

Children entering the first grade are typically filled with confidence and enthusiasm for learning, which can be preserved by the early discovery of and intervention in possible problems. Programs such as Head Start provide families who are economically disadvantaged with aid and early disability detection. Children who are identified with learning difficulties early on may be able to ward off future academic failures and their accompanying social consequences. These early childhood programs also enhance a child's emotional, intellectual, and physical development. Head Start enrollment increased by 323 in Montana, for a total of 4,778. Of those, 24 percent received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, a decrease of 8 percent from the previous year.

### Students with Disabilities

Special education did not see an enrollment increase over the past year. About 12 percent of Montana students are enrolled in Special Education. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), 12.6 percent of all students were in Individual Education Programs, 5 percent in limited English Proficiency Programs, and 85.4 percent in Title I. Title I is a federally funded program intended to help disadvantaged children meet challenging content and performance standards. Funding is based on the number of children from low-income families in a particular school. For the 2001-2002 school year, 85.4 percent of Montana's students attended Title I schools.

Students with disabilities suffer the same consequences of social alienation by peers and educators as their non-disabled counterparts. Children with learning disabilities have the added challenge of dealing with stigmas and labels that often accompany enrollment in special education classes. The desire to be socially accepted can become overwhelming, causing a student to withdraw and develop low self-esteem and a dislike or hatred for school.

### Standardized Test Scores and No Child Left Behind

National achievement tests are one measure of the performance of school systems. At least in the Iowa Achievement Test taken by fourth-, eighth- and 11th-graders, Montana ranked well when compared to schools nationwide. The 33,000 public- and private-school students who took the test during the 2002-2003 school year performed better in various subjects than 60-70 percent of students in other states. However, interpreting these numbers can be controversial and the Montana Office of Public Instruction counsels a conservative interpretation.

While test scores indicate a steady improvement among students in other states, Montana's scores have stabilized. The federal No Child Left Behind Act has added an element of controversy, both in Montana and nationwide. Despite the positive test results, 179 Montana schools failed to meet the required federal standards.

### Ethnic Makeup of Montana Schools

Of those students who graduated from Montana schools in 2001-02, 6.8 percent were Native American, 3 percent other races or nationalities, and 90.4 percent Caucasian. Native Americans represented 10.9 percent of the student population; of that, 11.7 percent attended elementary (K-8), 9.2 percent attended high school (9-12) and 9.5 percent were enrolled in pre-kindergarten education. Caucasians made up the majority of student enrollment with 85.4 percent; of that, 84.4 percent were in elementary school, 87.5 percent attended high school and 85.6 percent were enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs.

# American Indian Children in Montana

American Indians are the largest minority group in Montana, representing more than 6 percent of the Census 2000 population. Indian youth represent almost 10 percent of Montana's population under age 18, a demographic share that increases to 18 percent in the state's rural areas.

Indian kids and adolescents dominate population age profiles in tribal communities and reservations throughout the state, with children under age 20 accounting for 38 percent of the total population – the majority of them age 14 or younger.

This youthful orientation of American Indian populations will continue over the next decade, particularly in reservation counties such as Glacier, Big Horn, and Roosevelt. There, the Indian population has seen high natural population growth, with the annual number of births exceeding the number of deaths – whereas white populations have seen negative natural growth and out-migration.

KIDS COUNT indicators for Montana's American Indian kids have traditionally been very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to obtain because of the lack of

**Table 6**  
**State Level Well-being Indicators for American Indians/Alaska Natives**  
**Including Those of Hispanic Origin: Census 2000 (for July 1999)**

	Births per 1,000 females	% Low birthweight (<5.5 lbs.)	Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	Child death rate* (ages 1 - 14)	Teen death rate* (ages 15 - 19)	% no school or work (ages 16 - 19)	% of kids below poverty	% female HOH unemployment/not in labor force
Alaska	48.7	5.9	9.1	46.3**	202	17	23	41
Arizona	46.8	7.2	8.6	51.2	112	31	43	50
California	29.6	6.6	8.9	11.3**	25**	11	28	47
Michigan	19.1	7.4	8.8	0.0*	132**	8	20	34
Minnesota	61.6	7.2	10.9	57.6*	94**	28	35	38
Montana	52.2	6.9	12.0	43.1**	153**	21	45	41
New Mexico	43.1	7.1	7.7	39.5**	178	13	41	48
North Carolina	53.5	11.2	13.7	49.9**	101**	9	25	39
North Dakota	49.8	6.0	13.8	45.8**	208**	20	46	43
Oklahoma	46.1	5.9	8.0	28.9**	52**	9	27	38
South Dakota	61.6	5.2	15.2	26.4**	151**	18	54	47
Washington	45.2	5.4	9.6	10.9**	146**	24	28	40
Wisconsin	58.4	5.9	9.2	51.4**	118**	8	27	32
United States	41.4	7.1	9.1	29.8	89	15	32	43

Source: Dr. Angela Willetto, Native American Kids 2002: Indian Children's Well-being Indicators Data Book for 13 States, December, 2002, Casey Family Programs [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org) and National Indian Child Welfare Association [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org).

\* Rates are per 100,000 deaths; teen rate is for accidents, homicides, and suicides.

\*\* Rates based on 20 or fewer deaths may be unstable and should be used with qualification.

**Table 7**  
**Montana Well-being Indicators for American Indian Kids**  
**Compared to Statewide Kids Count Indicators, 1999**

<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>Teen births per 1,000 females (ages 15 - 17)</b>	<b>Infant mortality per 1,000 live births</b>	<b>Child death rate* (ages 1 - 14)</b>	<b>Teen death rate* (ages 15 - 19)</b>	<b>No school or work (ages 16 - 19)</b>	<b>% Below Poverty &lt;age 18</b>	<b>Female HOH % unemployed /not in labor force</b>	<b>% single parent families</b>
American Indian Kids	52	12.0	43	153**	21	45	41	35
All Kids	18	6.7	28	81	7	22	27	28
<b>UNITED STATES</b>								
American Indian Kids	41	9.1	30	89	15	32	43	37
All Kids	29	7.1	24	53	8	19	35	27

Source: Dr. Angela Willeto, Native American Kids 2002: Indian Children’s Well-being Indicators Data Book for 13 States, December, 2002, Casey Family Programs [www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org) and National Indian Child Welfare Association [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org).

\* Rates are per 100,000 deaths; teen rate is for accidents, homicides, and suicides.

\*\* Rates based on 20 or fewer deaths may be unstable and should be used with qualification.

systematic identification of American Indians in many of the conventional data sources. Fortunately, a 2002 study by Charlotte Goodluck and Angela Willeto funded by the Casey Family Programs ([www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)) provides important data on American Indian children well-being indicators for 13 states, including Montana.

Comparative data for American Indians and Alaskan Natives for 13 states and the United States are shown in Table 6. American Indian/Alaskan Native populations vary significantly among the states, with Arizona and Oklahoma having Indian youth populations of more than 100,000 and California counting more than 90,000 Indian youth. North Dakota has the smallest population, with 15,000 native youth. Montana’s American Indian youth population of 26,500 puts it in 10th place.

All these populations are relatively small when compared to the overall youth population in the different states, a factor that contributes to a lack of

regularly published, systematically collected indicator data for American Indian/Alaskan Native children. The data reported in Table 6 represent numbers from a variety of federal, state, local, and tribal sources.

Quantitative indicators in Table 6 do not capture other important dimensions of well-being for American Indian/Alaskan Native children. Spiritual belief systems and practices, extended family relationships, and social connections are not measured by the data discussed here.

Montana’s rank among the 13 states is middle-of-the-pack for some indicators and high for the economic hardship indicators like poverty and unemployment.

Montana’s poverty rate among American Indian kids is the third highest in the sample and is significantly above the national rate of 32 percent. The state’s unemployment and non-participation in labor force rate for female heads-of-household is also very high among Indians.



**Photo by Kurt Wilson.**

Montana scores higher than the national average on six of the eight indicators shown in Table 6. Teen birth rates of 52.2 percent place Montana well above the national rate and fourth highest among the 13 states. Montana's infant mortality, child death rate, teen death rate, percent of teens out of school and not working, and poverty rates are also higher than the national rates. Montana needs to do more to improve child and adolescent health and increase family income and employment opportunities in Indian communities.

The well-being of Montana's American Indian kids in relation to all kids in the state, represented by national KIDS COUNT indicators from the Annie Casey Foundation, is shown in Table 7. American Indian kids face more health, education, and economic problems than do other, non-Indian kids in Montana and the nation. Discrepancies in well-being against American Indian children and in favor of others is shown by the higher rate of teen births, infant mortality, child and teen death rates, poverty rates, and high percentage of teens not in school or working.

Disadvantages in health care, safety, and economic opportunity in Montana's Indian communities is especially dramatic when compared to other Montana children, or to children nationwide. Disadvantage measured by these differences is greater in Montana for teen birth rates, with a difference of 34 births between Indian female teens and all female teens, and

compared to a national difference of 12 births. Differences in child death rates for 1- to 14-year-olds and for teens in Montana are much greater than the national differences. American Indian children make up 10 percent of the infants and children in Montana, but almost 17 percent of the babies and children who died between 1997 and 2000.

Health programs have tried to address the death rate for both American Indian and non-Indian children in Montana. Statewide programs to reduce sudden infant deaths and accidental deaths from drowning, firearms, and vehicle crashes are ongoing by the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. But the efforts continue to be undermined by state budget cutbacks. Suicides and violent deaths from homicides and auto crashes, especially among teenage males, is a serious problem among Montana's American Indian population – but also among all youth. Our state rates are the highest in the country and proactive programs and interventions to address this epidemic are lacking because of budget constraints.

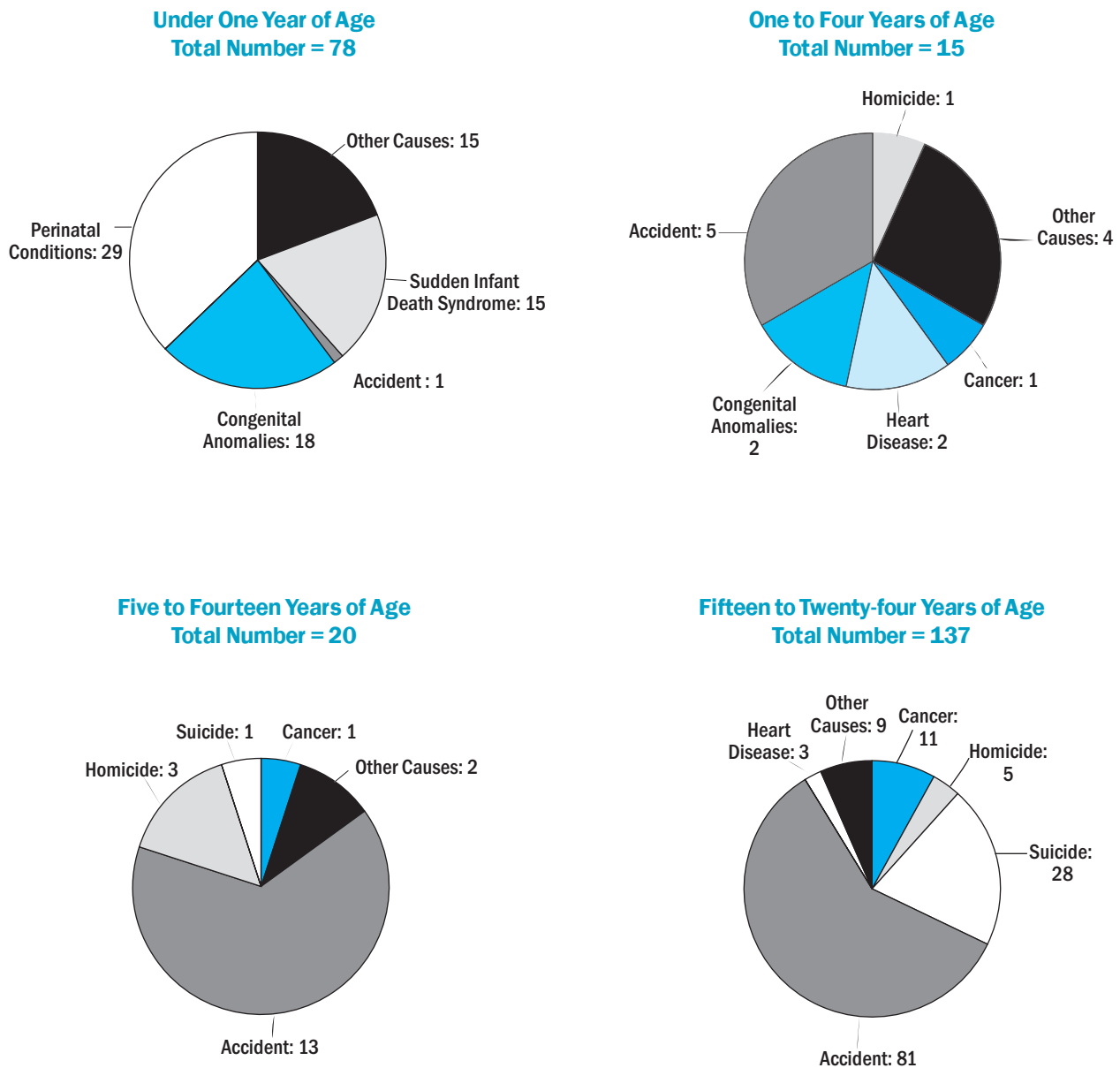
Montana's poor economic performance in labor market wages and employment opportunities in tribal communities contributes to the extreme disparities in poverty and employment rates and in the percent of teens not in school or working compared to national disparities between American Indian and non-Indian youth.

# Mortality and Safety

In 2002, 250 Montana children age 0–24 died with accidents, especially motor vehicle crashes, being the single most frequent cause of death. Other violent causes, notably suicides and, to a lesser degree, homicides became major causes of death for kids as they become older (Figure 6).

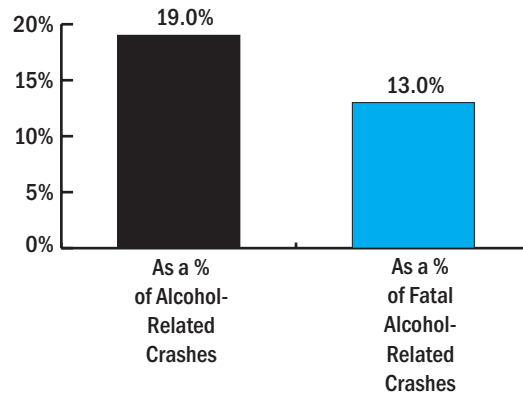
Several sources give insights into children’s attitudes and thoughts that lead to the some of the risky behaviors behind these statistics. The Centers for Disease Control survey of Montana high school students was conducted in 2001, and the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment data was compiled in

**Figure 6**  
**Leading Causes of Death by Age, Montana Youth, 2002**



Source: Montana Office of Vital Statistics.

**Figure 7**  
**Alcohol-Related Crashes and Fatal Alcohol**  
**Related Crashes, 16- to 19-Year-Olds,**  
**Montana, 2002**



Source: Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Highway Patrol.

2002. Although the studies measure different aspects of youth behavior, results from both show that Montana kids tend to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs at rates higher than national averages. According to the 2002 study, 64.2 percent of Montana students in the eighth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades plan to use alcohol when they become adults. On the positive side, youth in Montana do not perceive drugs as being easy to get, and 71 percent of eighth-graders perceived great risk in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day.

Alcohol and motor vehicle crashes are major causes of injury and death to Montana kids. This is particularly true in the 16-to-19 age group who, while representing only 7.4 percent of the total population, account for 19 percent of the alcohol-related vehicle crashes. Thirteen percent of those were fatal alcohol-related accidents. (Figure 7).

In general, kids in Montana are much more likely to drink and drive than are kids nationally and are more likely to ride in a vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol. According to the 2001 report, 21.8 percent of Montana's high school students have driven one or more times after drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. That compares to a national average of 13.3 percent. Also, 39.3 percent have over the past 30 days ridden one or more times in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who has been drinking.

In 2000, Montana received a D+ from Mother's Against Drunk Driving and was ranked at the bottom of all states in terms of drinking and driving, alcohol-related fatalities, prevention legislation, and drunk

driving penalties ([www.madd.org/](http://www.madd.org/)). However, a new law passed by the 2003 Legislature, which takes effect in October, increases the penalties for anyone under age 18 who is caught drinking alcohol.

To find an explanation that could help guide policymakers, it is necessary to look at the complex web of social, epidemiological, geographic, and cultural factors affecting Montana youth. There can be no simple answer to the problem of high child death rates. Theories abound, including poverty, social exclusion, community disorganization, lack of social bonding, and individual pathologies. However, no theory can adequately compensate a community for the loss of a child. To their parents and families, to their classmates and peers, to the social fabric of small towns where everyone literally knows everyone, no explanation can ease the pain of such a loss.

Several communities are working to address the problem. In Missoula, the Missoula Coalition for Suicide Prevention has organized stakeholder group meetings to begin a community conversation about suicides and to begin to address the issue as a public health concern. Since 1991, the Intermountain Regional EMS for Children Coordinating Council, based in Bozeman, has promoted improvement on the entire continuum of emergency medical services for children. Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies disseminates information throughout the state to teach parents about child safety issues, such as the correct use of booster seats and other restraints to keep children safe in vehicles.

# County Data

Demographic change, economic and social opportunity, health status, and many other kinds of Montana KIDS COUNT indicators show considerable variation throughout the state. A number of eastern Montana counties are experiencing net population losses, while counties in the western half of the state have net gains because of in-migration and an excess of births over deaths. Such geographic disparities present different needs and programs for children, be it education and schooling, health care, or support for social and economic advancement.

Census estimates of 2002 county population levels are shown on page 22. County population by age group for the 2000 Census is included, although county-level population-by-age estimates were not available for 2002.

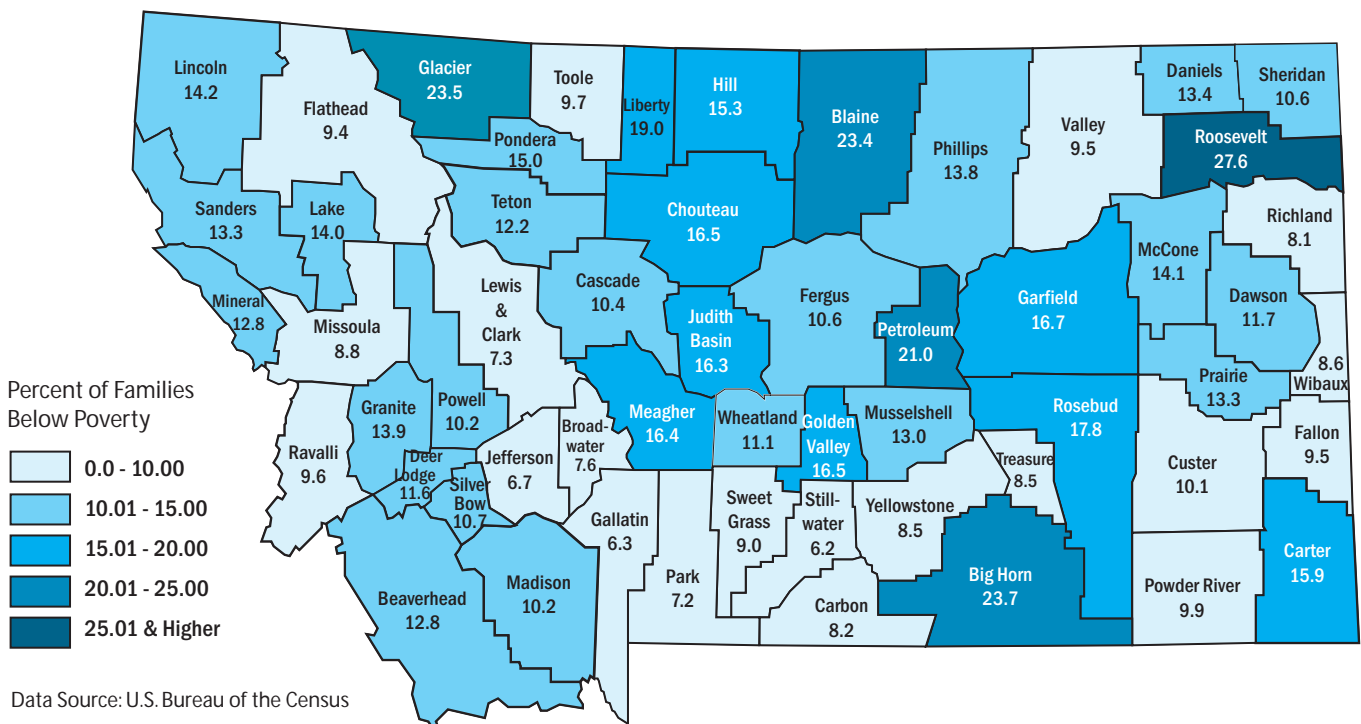
The economic status of children and families varies greatly statewide. Geographic variation in family income and poverty levels in Montana counties is dramatic, with more than 15 percent of families below the federal poverty level in certain central and eastern counties (Figure 8). Western Montana counties, by contrast, have much lower rates of family poverty,

with all counties west of the Continental Divide showing family poverty rates below 15 percent.

Poverty measured by family income is one measure of economic disadvantage. Other indicators reflect different dimensions of poverty. The percent of a county's population receiving food stamps and the percent of school children receiving free school lunches reflect the food insecurity dimension of poverty. And the number of people participating in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program represent yet another aspect of low-income families. These three percentages – of food stamps, free school lunch, and TANF – are combined into a single poverty measure for Montana counties (Table 8) and reflect broader, population-wide measures of poverty.

A ratio of the county sum of the three measures over the statewide sum of the three measures provides a comparison of how a county is doing relative to the statewide average of all 56 counties. Counties with a county/state ratio greater than one have higher-than-average poverty, while counties with a ratio below one have below-average poverty in the areas of free school lunch, food stamps, and TANF.

**Figure 8**  
**Percent of Montana Families Below Federal Poverty Level, by County, 1999**



# COUNTY DATA

## DEMOGRAPHICS

	2002 Estimated Total Population	2002 Estimated Population Under 18	2000 Total Population	2000 Population Ages 0 - 4	2000 Population Ages 5 - 14	2000 Population Ages 15 - 19	Median Age (Years) in 2000	Total Population Under 18 in 2000	American Indian Under 18	White Under 18
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>909,453</b>	<b>216,320</b>	<b>902,195</b>	<b>54,869</b>	<b>131,261</b>	<b>71,310</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>230,062</b>	<b>22,082</b>	<b>196,699</b>
Beaverhead	9,009	2,027	9,202	527	1,225	918	37.6	2,260	39	2,129
Big Horn	12,886	4,354	12,671	1,180	2,545	1,192	29.8	4,534	3,238	1,099
Blaine	6,895	2,107	7,009	569	1,282	666	34.4	2,287	1,346	880
Broadwater	4,366	978	4,385	234	651	300	41.3	1,105	17	1,057
Carbon	9,675	2,088	9,552	494	1,345	649	41.9	2,293	21	2,173
Carter	1,343	304	1,360	55	218	112	41.8	361	0	356
Cascade	79,389	19,442	80,357	5,337	11,826	6,001	36.7	20,912	1,197	18,161
Chouteau	5,566	1,414	5,970	386	998	486	39.3	1,721	445	1,239
Custer	11,341	2,632	11,696	689	1,633	964	39.3	2,939	60	2,809
Daniels	1,967	364	2,017	87	251	147	47.0	446	14	401
Dawson	8,713	1,824	9,059	463	1,199	758	41.0	2,096	31	2,028
Deer Lodge	9,069	1,859	9,417	433	1,215	767	42.3	2,122	46	1,990
Fallon	2,715	611	2,837	138	418	244	41.1	724	3	707
Fergus	11,678	2,625	11,893	617	1,656	925	42.4	2,919	33	2,802
Flathead	77,240	18,541	74,471	4,415	11,072	5,699	39.0	19,287	230	18,297
Gallatin	71,206	14,972	67,831	3,935	8,357	6,002	30.7	14,899	167	14,136
Garfield	1,230	266	1,279	86	163	99	41.6	313	2	309
Glacier	13,106	4,303	13,247	1,075	2,682	1,299	30.6	4,624	3,227	1,239
Golden Valley	1,063	258	1,042	54	175	85	41.5	288	0	288
Granite	2,863	633	2,830	137	408	194	42.8	686	10	641
Hill	16,372	4,376	16,673	1,190	2,616	1,552	34.5	4,707	1,200	3,271
Jefferson	10,424	2,553	10,049	524	1,704	822	40.2	2,798	47	2,624
Judith Basin	2,273	524	2,329	121	363	183	42.0	624	2	611
Lake	26,908	7,002	26,507	1,778	4,192	2,233	38.2	7,440	2,421	4,495
Lewis & Clark	56,554	13,460	55,716	3,435	8,106	4,299	38.0	14,268	375	13,283
Liberty	2,037	462	2,158	109	304	202	41.5	557	0	553
Lincoln	18,665	4,275	18,837	937	2,809	1,437	42.1	4,772	67	4,511
Madison	7,005	1,431	6,851	320	876	494	43.4	1,570	8	1,484
McCone	1,827	413	1,977	107	304	124	42.4	491	10	457
Meagher	1,941	450	1,932	96	291	148	42.8	483	4	469
Mineral	3,803	848	3,884	194	546	297	41.1	942	30	861
Missoula	98,102	21,458	95,802	5,455	12,422	8,007	33.2	21,917	746	19,928
Musselshell	4,410	919	4,497	222	579	369	43.2	1,051	21	1,000
Park	15,767	3,498	15,694	904	2,119	1,016	40.6	3,695	44	3,504
Petroleum	500	122	493	35	69	34	41.1	128	0	127
Phillips	4,321	1,017	4,601	227	753	387	40.8	1,256	115	1,069
Pondera	6,232	1,664	6,424	398	1,105	569	38.6	1,900	379	1,470
Powder River	1,829	433	1,858	110	286	130	42.1	494	14	476
Powell	7,045	1,379	7,180	332	876	494	39.7	1,525	22	1,424
Prairie	1,190	207	1,199	50	115	77	48.9	224	0	217
Ravalli	37,868	8,892	36,070	2,073	5,340	2,662	41.1	9,231	79	8,831
Richland	9,265	2,340	9,667	558	1,553	792	39.2	2,661	65	2,521
Roosevelt	10,494	3,448	10,620	858	2,157	965	32.3	3,672	2,587	937
Rosebud	9,273	2,908	9,383	723	1,819	864	34.5	3,143	1,390	1,599
Sanders	10,367	2,235	10,227	482	1,417	769	44.2	2,433	143	2,164
Sheridan	3,798	755	4,105	183	527	318	45.1	941	18	896
Silver Bow	33,403	7,461	34,606	2,001	4,757	2,494	38.9	8,199	236	7,629
Stillwater	8,420	1,911	8,195	448	1,213	587	40.8	2,071	16	1,949
Sweet Grass	3,623	879	3,609	211	556	228	41.1	937	11	886
Teton	6,315	1,571	6,445	397	995	541	40.0	1,757	30	1,673
Toole	5,103	1,204	5,267	282	784	397	39.1	1,345	36	1,249
Treasure	785	194	861	46	142	69	41.8	239	221	11
Valley	7,382	1,688	7,675	422	1,101	583	41.7	1,928	282	1,579
Wheatland	2,164	571	2,259	135	353	165	41.4	606	1	584
Wibaux	1,046	235	1,068	56	158	87	42.3	276	3	266
Yellowstone	131,622	31,935	129,352	8,539	18,635	9,408	36.9	32,965	1,543	29,140

# COUNTY DATA

## PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

	Live births in '02	'02 births to teen mothers (under age 19)	Number of infant deaths <1 ('99 - '02 average)	Monthly aver. children <19 Medicaid recipients in FY '02	% of children <=2 with complete immunizations in '02	% of infants born to moms receiving 1st tri. prenatal care in '02	Total # of reports of child abuse and neglect in '02	Juvenile arrests for all crimes ('00 - '02)	# of children in out-of-home placement as of 6/30/'03	Average # of children in CHIP program (monthly ave. for '02)
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>11,045</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>31,163</b>	<b>90.69</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>9,739</b>	<b>14,770</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>9,415.42</b>
Beaverhead	93	13	0.25	239	88.4	75.3	58	92		134.18
Big Horn	253	55	2.00	1,031	89.6	74.3	166	32		114.27
Blaine	91	16	0.75	450	100	68.1	33	150		57
Broadwater	43	5	0.50	125	95.8	88.4	40	2		59.09
Carbon	87	8	0.75	164	68.6	86.2	61	104		151.09
Carter	8	0	0.00	18	100	62.5	4	1		34.45
Cascade	1,082	129	9.25	2,742	79	89	1,157	2,957	303	595.64
Chouteau	53	4	0.00	90	95.5	86.8	31	32		60.64
Custer	133	18	1.00	433	93.9	78.2	185	176	107	115.27
Daniels	11	1	0.25	32	100	100	9	17		26.55
Dawson	79	10	0.00	176	84	88.6	96	136		110
Deer Lodge	83	17	0.50	366	84.2	79.5	97	145	34	83.9
Fallon	29	0	0.25	66	93.3	86.2	20	21		29.36
Fergus	92	8	1.00	290	96.9	82.6	134	208	41	264
Flathead	996	98	6.25	2,390	85.9	82.4	781	1,468	101	856.45
Gallatin	927	56	4.25	965	90.3	89.2	394	560	43	526
Garfield	18	1	0.00	18	100	88.9	6	2		23.73
Glacier	257	64	1.25	1,233	96.7	68.1	95	121		65.45
Golden Valley	11	1	0.00	25	0	90.9	4	3.67		8.27
Granite	15	1	0.00	71	76.9	93.3	20	14		27.64
Hill	261	35	1.25	1,043	95.2	67	161	571		164.82
Jefferson	94	13	0.25	217	85.7	86.2	71	111		105.82
Judith Basin	20	2	0.00	52	100	65	10	10		30.91
Lake	361	53	4.75	1,484	95.5	79.5	245	374	19	350.09
Lewis & Clark	666	69	4.50	1,625	93.1	93.5	672	1,346	131	389.73
Liberty	9	1	0.25	19	94.7	77.8	10	7		10.18
Lincoln	196	34	1.50	910	98.8	72.4	309	350	39	460.18
Madison	42	2	0.00	118	88.9	71.4	34	24		106.91
McCone	12	0	0.00	12	100	91.7	9	18		40.36
Meagher	22	3	0.50	54	94.1	86.4	18	14		48.73
Mineral	37	5	0.25	264	90.9	86.5	52	52		47
Missoula	1,118	94	5.50	2,955	94.1	82.7	836	2,007	151	730.73
Musselshell	48	5	0.50	158	80	77.1	67	38		94.55
Park	147	16	0.75	390	88.6	86.4	202	169	20	283.09
Petroleum	1	0	0.00	8		0	1	1		35.27
Phillips	36	2	0.25	132	92.7	75	41	100		85.55
Pondera	78	11	0.75	288	93.3	82.1	51	49		40.55
Powder River	13	1	0.00	22	85.7	84.6	3	5		31.82
Powell	47	5	0.75	176	75	83	50	99		63.18
Prairie	5	0	0.00	15	100	100	6	4		17.82
Ravalli	411	39	2.25	1,011	82.7	87.6	345	440	57	853.64
Richland	93	9	0.25	257	96.2	82.8	75	109	29	207.18
Roosevelt	219	52	2.00	1,182	98.9	73.1	487	26	93	81.09
Rosebud	173	33	1.75	422	96.1	67.1	140	59		52.27
Sanders	99	18	1.25	194	84.5	74.7	127	145		193.64
Sheridan	18	3	0.00	55	97.1	94.4	14	24		53.09
Silver Bow	368	57	1.25	1,509	95.6	82.9	523	673	123	257.09
Stillwater	76	4	0.25	130	87	88.2	49	60		66.55
Sweet Grass	37	5	0.25	60	100	83.8	21	22		70
Teton	60	1	0.50	108	90.9	88.3	54	29		89.09
Toole	38	7	0.00	108	84.6	73.7	47	88		60.27
Treasure	2	0	0.00	7	100	100	5	2.67		20.36
Valley	81	9	0.50	341	92	82.7	69	123		81.09
Wheatland	23	1	0.25	106	0	52.2	34	9		16.18
Wibaux	6	0	0.00	19	81.8	100	4	3.33		17.64
Yellowstone	1,767	183	11.50	4,290	77.7	84.8	1,445	1330	352	826.45

# COUNTY DATA

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DATA

## EDUCATION & LEARNING

	Children <18 in poverty in '99	% children <18 in poverty in '99	Poverty sum= % school free lunch + % food stamps + % TANF	County/state kid poverty ratio (>1 is above ave. poverty)	Estimated median household income for '99	Monthly ave. # of TANF children in '02	Overall unemployment rate in '02	Per capita personal income for '01	Total public, private, and home school K-12 enroll. for '02 - '03	% of children in public schools	Student dropout rate in academic year '01-'02
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>45,667</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>41.80%</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>32,098</b>	<b>10,501</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>24,044</b>	<b>161,404</b>	<b>92.52</b>	<b>3.82</b>
Beaverhead	467	21.6%	28.2%	0.67	29,084	73	4.0	21,957	1,396	94.91	3.0
Big Horn	1,427	32.0%	94.9%	2.27	26,081	704.6	14.7	14,998	2,729	85.27	9.2
Blaine	725	32.0%	75.9%	1.82	25,092	27.9	6.3	16,715	1,541	91.56	7.0
Broadwater	216	19.8%	42.5%	1.02	31,951	18.8	4.2	18,955	4,746	97.05	1.3
Carbon	385	17.1%	32.8%	0.78	32,099	41.6	4.2	23,636	1,650	96.06	2.2
Carter	83	23.4%	47.5%	1.14	26,007	0.6	2.4	20,475	224	90.18	1.5
Cascade	3,987	19.3%	40.4%	0.97	32,527	945.3	4.3	26,016	13,968	93.27	2.8
Chouteau	332	19.5%	44.5%	1.07	29,230	17.4	2.9	19,192	886	93.91	0.7
Custer	622	21.8%	32.8%	0.78	30,045	72.7	3.2	24,007	2,030	95.47	4.5
Daniels	97	21.8%	27.5%	0.66	28,228	2.8	2.7	26,129	307	100	0.7
Dawson	364	17.6%	29.6%	0.71	32,240	21.3	2.5	21,666	1,481	95.41	2.6
Deer Lodge	505	24.2%	54.0%	1.29	26,964	123.6	6.2	20,652	1,407	99.29	4.5
Fallon	130	18.1%	22.0%	0.53	31,033	4.3	3.5	23,275	563	97.87	0.0
Fergus	584	20.8%	37.2%	0.89	30,029	34.3	4.8	22,818	2,075	96.29	2.7
Flathead	3,622	19.0%	36.7%	0.88	34,376	446.9	5.6	24,801	14,787	88.57	4.6
Gallatin	2,029	13.7%	21.0%	0.50	37,380	170.1	2.7	26,442	10,703	90.71	2.6
Garfield	71	22.7%	27.8%	0.67	27,361	1.5	2.7	22,542	215	97.21	1.5
Glacier	1,520	33.1%	98.4%	2.35	24,888	1,127.9	9.9	17,982	2,966	98.85	6.5
Golden Valley	59	28.2%	66.5%	1.59	25,164	5.6	4.8	17,450	224	94.2	0.0
Granite	160	23.5%	42.1%	1.01	27,990	14.3	6.9	20,433	471	95.97	4.7
Hill	1,119	24.1%	60.9%	1.46	30,568	437.5	3.8	22,848	3,377	92.66	6.0
Jefferson	400	14.8%	26.7%	0.64	41,851	79.3	4.5	27,052	1,825	95.12	1.7
Judith Basin	134	21.5%	44.2%	1.06	27,910	2.9	5.1	18,713	434	97.00	0.0
Lake	1,972	27.0%	63.0%	1.51	28,071	231	7.5	18,862	4,931	90.14	7.2
Lewis & Clark	2,250	16.0%	31.6%	0.76	38,199	537.3	4.3	26,230	10,076	94.65	4.6
Liberty	107	19.2%	21.8%	0.52	27,481	3	3.2	19,073	388	96.91	0.0
Lincoln	1,219	26.0%	61.1%	1.46	27,504	259.3	11.5	18,260	3,304	95.94	2.8
Madison	284	18.6%	31.5%	0.75	30,296	18.3	3.7	22,091	1,019	96.57	0.5
McCone	90	18.2%	29.2%	0.70	29,601	0.8	1.7	18,792	276	97.46	2.4
Meagher	127	26.4%	61.9%	1.48	25,516	5.3	5.7	20,740	331	93.66	9.0
Mineral	244	26.8%	70.2%	1.68	26,898	57	8.9	17,750	844	94.31	1.1
Missoula	3,914	18.1%	39.2%	0.94	34,113	890.3	3.9	25,818	15,047	90.18	3.0
Musselshell	293	28.8%	50.4%	1.20	25,110	27.3	7.7	16,133	727	93.95	4.8
Park	641	17.5%	32.4%	0.78	31,030	64.8	4.3	21,570	2,429	90.37	3.6
Petroleum	30	23.7%	60.5%	1.45	23,152	2	2.8	17,115	92	91.30	0.0
Phillips	303	24.4%	58.0%	1.39	27,671	29.4	4.7	19,441	941	93.41	0
Pondera	441	23.3%	54.0%	1.29	28,469	167.9	4.5	20,072	1,234	97.89	6.6
Powder River	87	17.7%	28.7%	0.69	28,438	0.9	2.5	18,858	386	99.22	0.0
Powell	298	20.2%	36.2%	0.87	30,457	48.6	6.0	19,119	1,038	96.44	8.3
Prairie	48	21.3%	42.4%	1.01	27,071	2.4	4.4	23,444	189	97.35	4.4
Ravalli	2,016	22.1%	39.4%	0.94	31,505	200.8	5.0	20,461	6,467	95.01	3.6
Richland	481	18.2%	33.9%	0.81	32,145	23.4	5.5	22,912	1,887	97.88	1.7
Roosevelt	1,351	37.8%	105.1%	2.52	24,464	1,143.3	7.5	17,786	2,678	99.10	5.6
Rosebud	821	26.6%	65.5%	1.57	35,453	321.3	6.5	22,804	2,709	75.05	6.1
Sanders	636	26.5%	56.8%	1.36	26,558	55.2	8.4	17,978	1,840	96.36	3.1
Sheridan	154	16.6%	39.8%	0.95	30,110	15.3	3.3	24,224	615	98.05	1.2
Silver Bow	1,722	21.4%	41.3%	0.99	30,651	492.7	5.2	24,197	5,676	89.78	7.7
Stillwater	315	15.3%	21.9%	0.52	39,448	24	3.6	28,564	1,618	94.00	0.8
Sweet Grass	155	16.6%	28.9%	0.69	32,547	10.8	3.2	22,944	624	96.47	2.6
Teton	345	19.7%	31.2%	0.75	29,788	9.8	3.6	20,282	1,323	97.13	0.7
Toole	250	18.7%	37.5%	0.90	29,495	26.4	2.7	22,498	927	98.71	8.2
Treasure	53	22.9%	46.9%	1.12	28,744	3.5	3.8	18,390	146	97.95	0.0
Valley	414	21.8%	51.6%	1.24	30,607	131.8	3.4	25,121	1,326	95.70	2.6
Wheatland	138	30.1%	62.0%	1.48	23,069	25.9	5.0	18,459	448	98.88	1.4
Wibaux	63	23.6%	52.6%	1.26	27,551	1.3	3.5	19,908	192	96.35	0.0
Yellowstone	5,369	16.6%	37.6%	0.90	36,449	1,295.5	3.7	27,891	23,640	92.25	3.4

# Definitions and Sources of Data

- **Average number of children per month, between ages 0 to 19, who were Medicaid recipients**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Health Policy and Services Bureau, Medicaid Bureau. *Medicaid eligibility (roll up including QMB, Federal, and IHS) for State Fiscal Year 2002.*
- **Average number of children per month enrolled in the CHIP Program during 2002**  
To be CHIP eligible, children must be Montana residents, 18 or under, U.S. citizens or qualified aliens, not currently insured or covered by health insurance in the past 3 months (some employment-related exceptions apply), not eligible for Medicaid, their parents are not employed by the State of Montana, and their household meets income guidelines. *Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Health Policy and Services Division, Montana Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). Data available online at: <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/puheal/chip/index.htm>
- **Average number of women, infants, and children that participated in the WIC Program during 2002**  
This is the average number of participants, pregnant women, infants and children, in the WIC Program during Calendar Year 2001. This indicator is available for the state, counties, and reservations. *Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Health Policy and Services Division, Nutrition Section (WIC, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention). *Average WIC Program participation for FFY 2001 and 2002 by Clinic and County.* Data reflects participation for calendar year.
- **Average number of infant deaths (under 1 year of age) from 1999 to 2002**  
This indicator comes from the Office of Vital Statistics' collected records of residence data for deaths, through death certificates and registration of deaths. The place of residence for an infant is the usual state and county of residence of the mother. An infant is defined as an individual less than 365 days (one year) old. This indicator is an average number calculated by using vital statistic records for 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. *Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Average number of neonatal deaths (under 28 days) from 1999 to 2002**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Total number of live births in calendar year 2002 with low birth weight ( 2,500 grams or about 5 pounds, 8 ounces)**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Child and teen deaths due to intentional self-harm and self-poisoning (suicide) in 2002 (ages 10 to 19)**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Leading causes of death for children**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Total number of live births out of wedlock**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Total number of live births to teen mothers**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*



- **Children and teen deaths, all causes**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Teen deaths due to assault (homicide)(ages 15 to 19)**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Total number of live births**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **The rate (per 100,000) of suicide deaths among youths aged 15-19**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report.*
- **Civilian labor force between 16 to 19 years of age**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS); Current Population Survey (CPS). 2002 annual averages.
- **Teen unemployment Rate, 16 to 19 years of age**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Current Population Survey. 2002 annual averages.
- **Overall unemployment rate**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics; Current Population Survey. 2002 annual averages.
- **Estimated median household income for 1999**  
*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
- **Households by type**  
*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
- **Median age (years)**  
*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
- **Juvenile arrests, 3 year average (2000-2002)**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Justice, Montana Board of Crime Control, Technical Services Unit/MT Uniform Crime Reporting. Juvenile Crime data tabulations.
- **Montana school enrollment for academic year 2002 - 2003**  
*Source:* Montana Office of Public Instruction, *Montana Public School Enrollment Data, Fall 2002-2003.*
- **Number of students that have graduated from Montana public and state funded high schools in academic year 2002-2003**  
*Source:* Montana Office of Public Instruction, *Montana Public School Enrollment Data, Fall 2002-2003.*
- **Monthly average number of recipients of all ages that received Food Stamps**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division. *Statistical Report, State Fiscal Year 2002.*
- **Monthly average number of children that participated in FAIM in fiscal year 2002**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division. *Statistical Report, State Fiscal Year 2002.*
- **Number of children in out-of-home placement as of June 30, 2003**  
*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Division, *Child and Protective Services Data by County, Fiscal Year 2002.*
- **People under age 18 in poverty**  
Estimates model 1999 reported in the March 2000 Current Populations Survey released in October 2002.  
*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program (SAIPE). Data are available online at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saippe.html>
- **Per capita personal income**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Regional Accounts Data, Local Area Personal Income for 2001. Data are available online at: <http://www.bea.doc.gov>



- **Percent of students enrolled in pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade eligible for free/reduced lunch**

*Source:* Montana Office of Public Instruction, School Food Services.

- **Percent of third grade children who have received protective sealants on at least one permanent molar tooth**

This indicator requires primary data collection, such as examination or screening of a representative sample of school children. This indicator is currently only available at the state level. *Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html>

- **Percent of children without health insurance**

*Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html>

- **Percent of potentially Medicaid eligible children who have received Medicaid services**

*Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html>

- **Percent of children through age 2 seen by a health care provider who have completed immunizations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenza, Hepatitis B**

State Immunization Registry, CDC National Immunization Survey, State vital records, and Bureau of Census Population estimates are used for this indicator. *Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html> and <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/index.htm>

- **Percent of infants born to pregnant women receiving prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of pregnancy**

*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division, Office of Vital Statistics. *2002 Montana Vital Statistics Report*.



- **Percent of newborns with at least one screening for each of PKU, hypothyroidism, galactosemia, hemoglobinopathies**

The data used comes from state data system for newborn screening, CORN newborn screening annual report, and the birth registry. *Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html>

- **Percent of newborns who have been screened for hearing impairment before hospital discharge**

State birth certificates, new born hearing registries, tests of otoacoustic emissions and auditory brainstem responses were used to compile data for this indicator. *Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). *Title V Information System's Data (Title V IS)*. Data is available online at: <http://www.mchdata.net/SEARCH/search.html>

- **Race and ethnicity of children aged 0-18 in year 2000**

*White* – Children having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. *Black or African American* – Children having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. *American Indian & Alaska Native* – Children having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. *Hispanic Origin* – Children of

Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. *Source:* Montana Department of Commerce, Census and Economic Information Center. Montana Census 2000 Public Law 94-171 Database Browser. Data available online at: <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us/c2000/pl2000/plbrowser/index.asp>

- **Student dropout rate in academic year**

*Source:* Montana Office of Public Instruction, *Montana Statewide Dropout Report 2001-2002*.

- **Total number of reports of child abuse and neglect for fiscal year 2003**

*Source:* State of Montana, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Adult Protective Services. *Report of Child Protective Services Investigations, Statewide by county for fiscal year reporting period: 07/01/2001 to 06/30/2003*.

- **Total motor vehicle crashes in calendar year 2002 (driver under age 19)**

This indicator is calculated by adding the number of crashes when the driver was 19 or under, during the 2002 calendar year. *Source:* Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Highway Patrol. Special tabulations from the Safety Management System database, Montana Trafficway Summary Report on crashes between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002.

- **Total motor vehicle crashes, alcohol related**

This number includes crashes in which either the driver/driver(s) were driving under the influence of alcohol or pedestrians involved in the crash were under the influence of alcohol. *Source:* Montana Department of

Transportation, Montana Highway Patrol. Special tabulations from the Safety Management System database, Montana Trafficway Summary Report on crashes between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002.

- **Total motor vehicle fatal crashes, alcohol related**

This is the total number of motor vehicle crashes in which alcohol was involved (drivers or pedestrians), and resulted in fatal deaths during the 2002 calendar year. These fatal deaths include driver's death, passenger/passengers' death, and/or the death of pedestrians involved in the crash. *Source:* Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Highway Patrol. Special tabulations from the Safety Management System database, Montana Trafficway Summary Report on crashes between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002.

- **The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Early Childhood Services Bureau tabulations on families participating in the child care scholarship (subsidy) program.**

*Source:* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Operations and Technology Division. Statistical Report, State Fiscal Year 2001.

- **Head Start data**

*Source:* Montana Head Start Association. Project Head Start, *Program Information Report (PIR) for 2001-2002 program year*.

- Other data collected from the 2002 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being. The Annie Casey Foundation. [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org) and America's Children: Key national Indicators of Well-Being 2002. Federal Inter-agency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.



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Health Service Specialist, Health & Policy Services Division, DPHHS

**Jackie Jandt**

Project Coordinator, Community Incentive Grant, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, DPHHS

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Director, Montana Head Start Association

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Research Specialist, Census and Economic Information Center, Montana

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