2019
KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

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DOMAIN RANK for each state was determined in the following manner. First, the Foundation converted the state numerical values for the most recent year for each of the four key indicators within every domain into standard scores. It summed those standard scores in each domain to get a total standard score for each state. Finally, Casey ranked the states based on their total standard score by domain in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (50). Standard scores were derived by subtracting the mean score from the observed score and dividing the amount by the standard deviation for that distribution of scores. All measures were given the same weight in calculating the domain standard score.

OVERALL RANK for each state was calculated in the following manner. First, Casey converted the state numerical values for the most recent year for all 16 key indicators into standard scores. It summed those standard scores within their domains to create a domain standard score for each state. The Foundation then summed the four domain standard scores to get a total standard score for every state. Finally, it ranked the states based on their total standard score in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (50). Standard scores were derived by subtracting the mean score from the observed score and dividing the amount by the standard deviation for that distribution of scores. All measures were given the same weight in calculating the total standard score.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER TIME ANALYSIS was computed by comparing the most recent year's data for the 16 key indicators with the data for the base year. To calculate percentage change, the Foundation subtracted the rate for the most recent year from the rate for the base year and then divided that quantity by the rate for the base year. The results are multiplied by 100 for readability. The percentage change was calculated on rounded data, and the percentage-change figure has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING INDICATORS

CHILDREN IN POVERTY is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined each year by the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2017, a family of two adults and two children lived in poverty if their annual income fell below $24,858. Poverty status is not determined for people living in group quarters (such as military barracks, prisons and other institutional quarters) or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as children in foster care). The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK SECURE EMPLOYMENT is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time, year-round employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week for at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week for at least 50 weeks in the 12 months before the survey. Children living with neither parent are also listed as not having secure parental employment because they are likely to be economically vulnerable.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in households where more than 30 percent of monthly household pretax income is spent on housing-related expenses, including rent, mortgage payments, taxes and insurance.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

TEENS NOT IN SCHOOL AND NOT WORKING is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full or part time) and not employed (full or part time).

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

EDUCATION INDICATORS

YOUNG CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL is the percentage of children ages 3 and 4 who were not enrolled in school (e.g., nursery school, preschool or kindergarten) during the previous three months. Due to small sample size, these data are based on a pooled three-year average of one-year American Community Survey responses to increase the accuracy of the estimates.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

FOURTH-GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN READING is the percentage of fourth-grade public school students who did not reach the proficient level in reading as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress. For this indicator, public schools include charter schools and exclude Bureau of Indian Education and Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.

EIGHTH-GRADERS NOT PROFICIENT IN MATH is the percentage of eighth-grade public school students who did not reach the proficient level in math as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress. For this indicator, public schools include charter schools and exclude Bureau of Indian Education and Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT GRADUATING ON TIME is the percentage of an entering freshman class not graduating in four years. The measure is derived from the adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR). The four-year ACGR is the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class. Students entering ninth grade for the first time form a cohort that is adjusted by adding any students who subsequently transfer into the cohort and subtracting any students who subsequently transfer out.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.

HEALTH INDICATORS

LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT BABIES is the percentage of live births weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams). The data reflect the mother's place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics.

CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE is the percentage of children under age 19 not covered by any health insurance. The data are based on health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the calendar year.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

CHILD AND TEEN DEATHS PER 100,000 is the number of deaths, from all causes, to children between ages 1 and 19 per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

SOURCES: *Death Statistics:* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. *Population Statistics:* U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.

TEENS WHO ABUSE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS is the percentage of teens ages 12 to 17 reporting dependence on or abuse of either illicit drugs or alcohol in the past year. Illicit drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants or prescription drugs used nonmedically. These data are based on a two-year average of survey responses.

SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INDICATORS

CHILDREN IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own unmarried parents. Children not living with a parent are excluded. In this definition, single-parent families include cohabiting couples. Children living with married stepparents are not considered to be in a single-parent family.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WHERE THE HOUSEHOLD HEAD LACKS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA is the percentage of children under age 18 living in households where the household head does not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

CHILDREN LIVING IN HIGH-POVERTY AREAS is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in census tracts where the poverty rates of the total population are 30 percent or more. In 2017, a family of two adults and two children lived in poverty if their annual income fell below $24,858.

The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey. The census tract data used in this analysis are only available in the five-year American Community Survey.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

TEEN BIRTHS PER 1,000 is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 19 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence, rather than the place of the birth.

SOURCES: *Birth Statistics:* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics. *Population Statistics:* U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates.