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**Parents of 68,000 Kids Lack Secure Employment in Alaska:
New *KIDS COUNT Data Book***

*High Housing Costs and Lack of Health Insurance for Kids Undermining Alaska's
Future Economic Prosperity*

ANCHORAGE – A new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranks Alaska 49th in the nation for children without health insurance, as of 2012. The report also shows that that same year, more than 35 percent of Alaskan children's parents lacked secure employment and 34 percent lived in households with a high housing cost burden.. The results of the study are especially troubling in the face of Alaska's emerging housing crisis.

The new report – the twenty-fifth edition of the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* – ranks Alaska 33rd in the nation for the overall well-being of Alaskan children. The *Data Book* measures the overall well-being of children using 16 indicators across four areas – Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community. While Alaska is ranked 46th in the nation in the Health domain and 42nd in Education, the state is also ranked 15th in the Family and Community domain.

Alaska also had the lowest percentage (5.7 percent) of low-birthweight babies born in the nation in 2012, the 2nd lowest percentage (1 percent) of children living in high-poverty areas, and the 3rd lowest percentage (14 percent) of children living in poverty – though this means there are still approximately 26,000 children living in poverty in the state.

Massachusetts, Vermont, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Minnesota rank highest for overall child well-being, while Arizona, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico and Mississippi rank lowest. Three southwestern states – Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico – are once again in the bottom five for the overall rankings.

The [*KIDS COUNT Data Book*](#) features the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information is available in the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being. Data Center users can create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and view real-time information on mobile devices.

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.