



Child & Family

POLICY CENTER

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For More Information, Contact:

Michael Crawford, Iowa Kids Count Director
Email: mcrawford@cfpciowa.org

Anne Discher, Communications Director
Email: adischer@cfpciowa.org

Telephone: 515/280-9027
Fax: 515/244-8997

Iowa Ranks 4th in Latest *KIDS COUNT Data Book*

Iowa ranks fourth nationally in the 2015 national *KIDS COUNT*[®] *Data Book* report on child well-being, down a place from the position the state held last year. The 26th edition of the annual *Data Book*, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, compares and ranks the 50 states on 16 child and family well-being indicators in four separate areas.

Nationally, Iowa ranks first among all states in the Health area and in the top 10 in two other areas: fourth in Economic Well-Being, and ninth in Family and Community. The state ranks 13th in the fourth area, Education, when compared to the other states.

(more)

Among the indicators, Iowa did experience some deterioration in the percentages of children living in poverty and in single parent families, increasing by 14 percent and 11 percent, respectively, since 2008, during the midst of the recession. However, the teen birth rate and the percentage of children without health insurance have shown improvement since that time, both decreasing by 33 percent. In addition, the percentage of high school students not graduating on time decreased by 21 percent since 2007-08.

“Iowa’s fourth place ranking overall is a reflection of the emphasis people in this state place on providing for children and families,” said Michael Crawford, Iowa KIDS COUNT Director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. “However, there are a few indicators such as child poverty and single parent families that have worsened the past few years. One in six children in Iowa lives in poverty. Furthermore, the poverty rate for Hispanic and African American children is two to three times that of White, non-Hispanic children. Today, as the economy recovers for some, we see a widening gap that leaves children of color behind.”

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is produced and disseminated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The full report with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data will be available at 12:01 a.m. EDT, July 21, 2015 at www.aecf.org. Iowa Kids Count also produces its own *KIDS COUNT Data Book* annually providing county, sub-state, state and national data.

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