



Children First
for Oregon

UNDER EMBARGO until Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 12:01 a.m. EDT

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Oregon Falls Three Spots in National Ranking of Overall Child Well-Being

State's economic, health and community rankings have all declined
according to new *KIDS COUNT Data Book*

PORTLAND, ORE.—Oregon's national rank in overall child well-being fell from 29th to 32nd, according to the newly released 2016 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*[®] from the [Annie. E. Casey Foundation](#). The report focuses on national trends in child well-being in the post-recession years and measures child well-being in four domains: economic well-being, education, health and family and community.

The data show that Oregon families continue to struggle to get by and, without concerted action, today's children face narrowing opportunities for success in the future. Child poverty remains a concern with more than one in five of Oregon's kids living in poverty – almost enough to fill Autzen Stadium and Reser Stadium two times each. Oregon families face some of the highest housing costs as a percentage of income. In addition to families' economic hardship, Oregon students struggle: the rate of high school students not graduating on time has improved nationally, while stagnating in Oregon.

“Without a change in the trajectory of the economic lives of our families and the educational success of our students, Oregon's prosperity is at risk,” said Tonia Hunt, executive director of Children First for Oregon. “The size of the gap between where we are and where we as a state want to be requires even more concerted efforts and further investments in the coming years.”

Oregon's lagging rankings in the areas of economic security and education stand in contrast to the progress the state has made in the area of health insurance coverage. Helping to lead the country, the percentage of Oregon kids without health insurance has plummeted by over 60 percent since 2008 – one of the largest percent changes in the country.

“When Oregon lawmakers act on behalf of kids, we can make significant progress,” said Hunt. “And when voters speak, lawmakers will act. We need to speak loud and clear so that every child has the opportunity to be economically secure, educated, healthy and safe.”

The 2016 Data Book will be available June 21 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. The Data Center

allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices.

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.

Children First for Oregon, founded in 1991, is a data-driven, nonpartisan child advocacy organization, committed to improving the lives of Oregon's vulnerable children and families. Its mission is to make long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies and programs that keep children healthy and safe, and strengthen families.

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