



South Dakota KIDS COUNT  
Beacom School of Business  
University of South Dakota  
414 E. Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390



**UNDER EMBARGO until Wednesday, June 27 at 12:01 a.m. ET**

**Contact:** Carole Cochran | [carole.cochran@usd.edu](mailto:carole.cochran@usd.edu) | 605-677-6432

### **South Dakota Ranks 29th in Nation for Child Well-Being**

2018 KIDS COUNT® Data Book *shows progress for South Dakota kids in overall economic well-being, but discrepancies in race and income persist.*

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The 2018 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, shows that while some areas of child well-being have improved for South Dakota’s kids, more work must be done for children in the state, especially around health.

“A ranking of 29 out of 50 is not acceptable for our children or for South Dakota,” said Carole Cochran, program director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT. “We have to do more to lift up our children and lay the groundwork necessary to allow the next generation to be successful. The *National Data Book* provides us with the roadmap essential to improve child well-being moving forward.”

The annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* from the Annie E. Casey Foundation uses 16 indicators to rank each state across four domains — health, education, economic well-being and family and community — as an assessment of child well-being. South Dakota ranks:

- **45th in health.** In 2016, 105 children, ages 1 to 19, died in South Dakota, which translates to a mortality rate of 47 per 100,000 children. The rate increased from 2010, when there were 84 deaths for a mortality rate of 39 per 100,000 children. South Dakota ranked last in the nation for this indicator.
- **Ninth in economic well-being.** In 2016, 17 percent of children lived in families with incomes below the poverty line, down from 18 percent in 2010. The poverty rate among American Indian children was almost eight times higher than the rate for white children in South Dakota. Even though South Dakota improved on this indicator, the national ranking dropped from 16th in 2010 to 21st in 2016.
- **30th in education.** During 2014-16, 61 percent of children ages 3 to 4 were not in school. The number of children not enrolled in school has increased since 2009-11. The number and percent of children not enrolled in school has been the same since 2012. Half of American Indian 3- to 4-year-olds were not in any school programs; the percentage was higher at 66 percent for white children.

- **26th in the family and community domain.** In 2016, 681 babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15 to 19, translating to a rate of 25 births per 1,000 teens. While the rate declined by almost one-third between 2010 and 2016, the number of births to teen mothers has declined every year since 2010, with an overall 29 percent drop between 2010 and 2016.

While the Casey Foundation’s *Data Book* highlights many instances of progress and increasingly healthy development of children nationwide, the potential inaccuracies of the 2020 census pose many threats to supportive programs and services offered to our nation’s youth. Accurate data collection is essential to the child well-being field. The census continues to be a relied-on data source for the Annie E. Casey Foundation and South Dakota KIDS COUNT in producing reports.

In South Dakota, 12 percent of children live in hard-to-count census tracts. If they are missed in the 2020 census, children will suffer from reduced funding for programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Head Start and foster care. It is important for all stakeholders to come together to make fully counting children and other key populations a priority as planning time for the 2020 census is running out.

“Reliable data, particularly census data, are critical to informing decisions that improve the lives of America’s children,” said Laura Speer, associate director for policy reform and advocacy at the Casey Foundation. “An inaccurate census threatens to undermine essential resources for communities and erode many of the advancements made in recent years for our children – particularly children of color – for years to come.”

### **Release Information**

The 2018 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* will be available June 27 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://www.aecf.org/databook), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org).

### **About South Dakota KIDS COUNT**

The South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project provides a broad picture of how South Dakota children are doing and provides parents, policymakers, advocates and others interested in the well-being of children with information they need to make informed decisions about policies and programs for children and families.

### **About the Beacom School of Business**

USD's Beacom School of Business was established in 1927 and has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) since 1949. The leading business school in the region, Beacom's programs are consistently ranked among the top business schools in the nation by Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and others for its high-quality learning experience, student success, affordability, and high-caliber of faculty and students. Whether a student chooses face-to-face or online courses, Beacom's programs emphasize real-world experience through professional organizations, quality internships and capstone projects.

### **About the University of South Dakota**

Founded in 1862 and the first university in the Dakotas, the University of South Dakota is the only public liberal arts university in the state, with 205 undergraduate and 73 graduate programs in the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Education, School of Law, Sanford School of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, Beacom School of Business and College of Fine Arts. With an enrollment of nearly 10,000 students and more than 400 faculty, USD has a 17:1 student/faculty ratio, and it ranks among the best in academics and affordability. USD's 17 athletic programs compete at the NCAA Division I level.

### **About the Annie E. Casey Foundation**

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](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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