

Definitions and Data Sources

Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14) is the number of deaths to children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, 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:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place of death. **SOURCE:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Overall Rank for each state was obtained in the following manner. First, we converted the 2008 (or 2007, depending on the indicator) state numerical values for each of the 10 key indicators into standard scores. We then summed those standard scores to create a total standard score for each of the 50 states. Finally, we ranked the states on the basis of their total standard score in sequential order from high-

est/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.

Percent Change Over Time analysis was computed by comparing the 2008 (or 2007, depending on the indicator) data for 8 key indicators with the data for 2000. To calculate percent change, we subtracted the value for 2000 from the value for 2007/2008 and then divided that quantity by the value for 2000. The results are multiplied by 100 for readability. The percent change was calculated on rounded data, and the “percent change” figure has been rounded to the nearest whole number. The 2008 Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) and Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment should not be compared to previous years because of substantial changes made to the 2008 American Community Survey questions on labor force participation and number of weeks worked.



Find detailed Definitions and Data Sources at:
datacenter.kidscount.org/databook

Percent Low-Birthweight Babies is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data reflect the mother’s place of residence, not the place where the birth occurred. Data used are preliminary because the final birth report was not available at print time. **SOURCE:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.

Percent of Children in Poverty (income below \$21,834 for a family of two adults and two children in 2008) 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 by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In calendar year 2008, a family of two adults and two children fell in the “poverty” category if their annual income fell below \$21,834. 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 foster children). The data are based on income received in the 12 months prior to the survey. **SOURCE:** State-level data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families is the percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own single parent, either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include

cohabiting couples and do not include children living with married stepparents. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means that the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. For children living in married-couple families, this means that neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. Children living with neither parent also were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16–19) 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). This measure is sometimes referred to as “Idle Teens” or “Disconnected Youth.” Inclusion of the group quarters population to the ACS in 2007 could have a noticeable impact on the universe population for this age group. Therefore, the 2008 ACS estimates might not be fully comparable to estimates prior to 2007. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not High School Graduates (ages 16–19) is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure. The measure used here is defined as a “status dropout” rate. Inclusion of the group quarters population to the ACS in 2007 could have a noticeable impact on the universe population for this age group. Therefore, the ACS estimates for 2007 and 2008 might not be fully comparable to estimates prior to 2007. **SOURCE:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19) 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:** State Health Department for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For more information on the individual Health Departments, contact kidscount@prb.org. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.

Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19) is the number of deaths from all causes to teens between ages 15 and 19, per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data are reported by the place of residence, not the place where the death occurred. **SOURCES: Death Statistics:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. **Population Statistics:** U.S. Census Bureau.

Criteria for Selecting KIDS COUNT Indicators

Over the past several years, we have developed a set of criteria to select the statistical indicators published in the national *KIDS COUNT Data Book* for the purposes of measuring change over time and ranking the states. The criteria are designed to meet our twin goals of using only the highest quality data and communicating clearly and concisely. The criteria are described below.

1. The statistical indicator must be from a reliable source. All of the indicator data used in this book come from U.S. government agencies. Most of the data have already been published or released to the public in some other form before we use them. We work with a small circle of data experts to examine and re-examine the quality of the data used in the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* each year.

2. The statistical indicator must be available and consistent over time. Changes in methodologies, practice, or policies may affect year-to-year comparability. Program and administrative data are particularly vulnerable to changes in policies and/or program administration, resulting in data that are not comparable across states or over time.

3. The statistical indicator must be available and consistent for all states. In practice, this means data collected by the federal government or some other national organization. Much of the data collected by states may be accurate and reliable and may be useful for assessing changes over time in a single state, but unless all of the states follow the same data collection and reporting procedures, the data are likely to be

inconsistent across states. Without data for every state, we would not be able to construct an overall composite index of child well-being.

4. The statistical indicator should reflect a salient outcome or measure of well-being. We focus on outcome measures rather than programmatic or service data (such as dollars spent on education or welfare costs), which are not always related to the actual well-being of children. This focus reflects our ultimate aim of improving child well-being, regardless of the policies or programs used to achieve this goal.

5. The statistical indicator must be easily understandable to the public. We are trying to reach an educated lay public, not academic scholars or researchers. Measures that are too complex or esoteric cannot be communicated effectively.

6. The statistical indicator must have a relatively unambiguous interpretation. If the value of an indicator changes over time, we want to be sure there is widespread agreement that this is a good thing (or a bad thing) for kids.

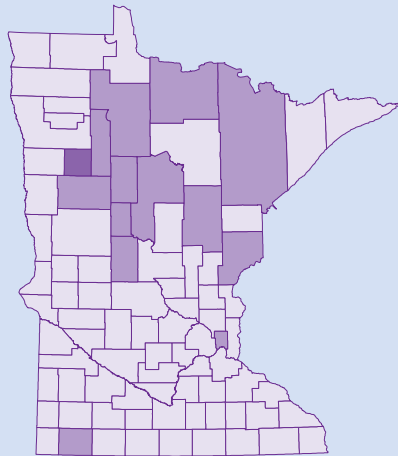
7. There should be a high probability that the measure will continue to be produced in the near future. We want to establish a series of indicators that can be produced year after year to track trends in the well-being of children in each state. Therefore, we are reluctant to use data from a one-time survey, even though it may provide good information about kids.

Over the past few years, we have produced several KIDS COUNT Working Papers focused on the KIDS COUNT data and methodology. These are available at www.kidscount.org. For additional information on characteristics of good indicators of child well-being, see Key Indicators of Child and Youth Well-Being: Completing the Picture, 2008, Brett V. Brown (Ed.), Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, New York, NY.

Demographic Data

Total children under age 18 in 2007 [1,260,282 | 24%]

Child Poverty Rate, 2007



■ 27.1% or greater ■ 18.1% to 27% □ 18% or lower



Find more state and community-level data for Minnesota at the KIDS COUNT Data Center: datacenter.kidscount.org/mn

Key Indicators

Percent Change Over Time

WORSE BETTER

Trend Data

STATE NATIONAL

National Rank

Key Indicators	2000	2006	2000	2006	National Rank
Percent low-birthweight babies	6.1	6.5	7.6	8.3	[3]
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.6	5.2	6.9	6.7	[6]
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1–14)	18	16	22	19	[9]
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15–19)	52	51	67	64	[7]
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15–19)	30	28	48	42	[9]
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16–19)	7	3	11	7	[2]
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)	4	4	9	8	[1]
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	23	28	32	33	[7]
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,027 for a family of two adults and two children in 2007)	9	12	17	18	[7]
Percent of children in single-parent families	21	26	31	32	[5]

▨ Patterned bars indicate national change. ■ Solid bars indicate state change.

Minnesota

OVERALL RANK
2



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KEY INDICATORS	STATE TREND			NATIONAL TREND			NATIONAL RANK
Percent low-birthweight babies	2000 2007	6.1 6.7	↑ 10%	2000 2007	7.6 8.2	↑ 8%	9
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2000 2007	5.6 5.5	↓ -2%	2000 2007	6.9 6.7	↓ -3%	8
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	2000 2007	18 15	↓ -17%	2000 2007	22 19	↓ -14%	6
Teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	2000 2007	52 43	↓ -17%	2000 2007	67 62	↓ -7%	5
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19)	2000 2007	30 28	↓ -7%	2000 2007	48 43	↓ -10%	8
Percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates (ages 16-19)	2000 2008	7 3	↓ -57%	2000 2008	11 6	↓ -45%	1
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)	2000 2008	N.A. 4	—	2000 2008	N.A. 8	—	1
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2000 2008	N.A. 22	—	2000 2008	N.A. 27	—	7
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$21,834 for a family of two adults and two children in 2008)	2000 2008	9 11	↑ 22%	2000 2008	17 18	↑ 6%	4
Percent of children in single-parent families	2000 2008	21 25	↑ 19%	2000 2008	31 32	↑ 3%	4

Find more state and community-level data for Minnesota at the KIDS COUNT Data Center
datacenter.kidscount.org/MN

PERCENT CHANGE OVER TIME

- ↓ GETTING BETTER
- ↑ GETTING WORSE

N.A.: Comparable data not available for 2000 for these indicators. For more information, and to access the definitions and data sources for all indicators, go to: datacenter.kidscount.org/databook