



Child & Family POLICY CENTER

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Iowa Ranks 3rd in Latest National KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report

Iowa ranks third nationally in the 2014 national KIDS COUNT report on child well-being, up four places from the position the state held in 2013. The 25th edition of the annual *KIDS COUNT 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 presented in the report: third in Economic Well-Being, and seventh 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 14 percent and 15 percent, respectively, since 2005. However, the percentage of children without health insurance has shown improvement since 2008, decreasing 33 percent. In addition, the child and teen death rate, and the teen birth rate both have decreased 27 percent since 2005.

“Iowa’s third place ranking overall is reflective of the importance the residents of the state put on providing for their children and families, and we all should be very proud of that,” said Michael Crawford, Iowa KIDS COUNT Director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. “We have shown improvement on 11 of the 16 well-being indicators and rank in the top seven nationally in three of the four areas presented. However, there are a few indicators such as child poverty and single parent families that have worsened the past few years. While we should celebrate the successes we have experienced in the majority of indicators, it remains extremely important to strive to improve upon the indicators that need it.”

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* annually is produced and disseminated by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland. The full report with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data will be available at 12:01 a.m. EDT, July 22, 2014 at www.aecf.org. Iowa Kids Count also produces its own *KIDS COUNT Data Book* annually providing county, substate, state and national data.

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