



SOUTH DAKOTA KIDS COUNT
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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

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South Dakota 17th in Overall Rankings

Economic, Health domains improve; Education declines, and Family and Community remains the same for SD children

Vermillion (July 22, 2014) – There’s mixed news for South Dakota kids, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation 2014 *KIDS COUNT*[®] *Data Book*, which is the 25th edition.

“Our overall rank of 17th is a slight improvement from last year,” says Carole Cochran, project director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT at the University of South Dakota’s Beacom School of Business. She notes that while conditions improved for the state’s children in the Economic and Health domains, it dropped in the Education domain, while the Family and Community domain remained unchanged.

For the 16 indicators, South Dakota improved on 11, worsened on 4 and 1 remained the same. The greatest improvement was in the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who are neither attending school nor working. From 2008 to 2012, that number dropped from 6 percent to 4 percent, a 33 percent change. That decrease moved South Dakota from eighth to first for this indicator. A contributing factor may have been a 2009 change in state law that required school attendance to age 18. Also on the plus side, the percentage of South Dakota children without health insurance showed a definite improvement. Children without insurance dropped from 8 percent in 2008 to 6 percent in 2012.

Two indicators that worsened between 2005 and 2012 were the percentage of children in single parent families, which jumped from 28 percent in 2008 to 34 percent in 2012; and the percentage of high school students not graduating on time, which increased from 15 percent in 2005/06 to 17 percent in 2011/12.

Cochran notes the mixed picture for child and teen mortality for South Dakota. Trends show the rate of child and teen deaths improving from 59 deaths per 100,000 age 1-19 in 1990 to the rate of 39 deaths per 100,000 age 1-19 in 2010. “The decrease in child and teen deaths is good, however compared to other states we rank 48th on this indicator.”

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The KIDS COUNT Data Book with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data is embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT, July 22, 2014, on the Casey Foundation website. Through the KIDS COUNT Data Center, users can download the complete Data Book, access hundreds of other measures of child well-being and view real-time information on mobile devices.

The University of South Dakota Founded in 1862, the University of South Dakota is designated as the only public liberal arts university in the state and is home to a comprehensive College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, the state’s only School of Law, School of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, the accredited Beacom School of Business and the College of Fine Arts. It has an enrollment of more than 10,200 students taught by more than 400 faculty members.