



Child & Family POLICY CENTER

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Iowa Ranks 5th in Latest National KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report

**Boosted by policy, the state is a leader in child economic well-being, but lacks progress
in child health**

DES MOINES, Iowa, June 13, 2017 — Iowa's continued investment in our kids is giving them the support they need to lead healthy and successful lives. Iowa is among this year's top five states for child well-being, according to the *2017 KIDS COUNT® Data Book* released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The 28th edition of the annual *Data Book* compares and ranks each state on 16 indicators across four separate domains — health, education, economic well-being and family and community — that represent what children need most to thrive.

Nationally, Iowa ranks third among all states in the economic well-being domain and in the top 10 in the three other domains: sixth in education, seventh in health and eighth in family and community.

"Iowa's fifth place ranking overall reflects the importance people in this state place on providing for children and families," said **Michael Crawford**, Iowa KIDS COUNT director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. "The teen birth rate has improved during the first half of this decade. And we are proud that 91 percent of our high school students graduated on time in 2014-15. However, there are a few indicators, such as single-parent families and child poverty that have worsened or barely improved the past few years. Almost one in seven children in Iowa still live in poverty."

Since 2010, Iowa experienced a 3 percent increase in the percentage of children living in single-parent families. Child poverty, which had been decreasing the previous few years,

showed no change between 2014 and 2015.

Additionally, though Iowa has maintained its place in the top 10 for child health, the state is beginning to fall behind compared to the nationwide average. There's been no change in the percentage of children not covered by health insurance compared to 2010, despite a national percentage decrease of 38 percent. However, the teen birth rate has improved since 2010, decreasing 34 percent.

Release Information

The 2017 *Data Book* will be available June 13 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at <http://databook.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.

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About Iowa Kids Count

Iowa Kids Count also produces its own *KIDS COUNT Data Book* annually providing county, sub-state, state and national data. These data are available at www.cfpciowa.org under the Kids Count link and provide users with data and maps on 20 indicators of child well-being.

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. KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.