



Council on Children and Families

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

DEBORAH A. BENSON
Executive Director

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CONTACT: Contact: 518-402-3130; info@ocfs.ny.gov

***2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* finds child well-being for New York's children improves in health and education**

ALBANY — According to the *2017 KIDS COUNT® Data Book*, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, New York ranks 30th overall among other states. State rankings are based on 16 measures in the areas of health; education; economic security; and family and community. New York ranked sixth in the nation in children's health and 19th in education when compared to other states. The *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* revealed that New York children experienced improvement or remained the same in 12 of the 16 measures of child well-being. Currently, 98 in 100 children in New York have health insurance. Another notable improvement was a drop in the percent of teens ages 12 to 17 who abused alcohol or drugs in the past year (dropped three percentage points from 8 percent to 5 percent).

Two key areas of child well-being—economic well-being and family and community—continue to pose challenges. Two measures related to family and community well-being improved while two measures weakened; economic well-being weakened in two of the four measures assessed. In particular, 19 percent of New York's children lived in high poverty areas from 2011-2015 — up from 17 percent from 2008-2012.

Solutions based on American values

The Casey Foundation offers several recommendations based on shared values of opportunity, responsibility and security.

- **EDUCATION:** Increase opportunity by expanding access to high-quality pre-K and early childhood services so that all children are prepared to succeed in school.
 - This year the state invested more than ever before through innovative programs, such as the Excelsior Scholarship, record levels of funding and common sense reform. For example, New York's budget included over \$800 million appropriated for prekindergarten (pre-K), protecting the state's current investment and adding \$5 million in new funding for 3- and 4-year-old full-day seats in high need districts, with priority for districts that do not yet have any pre-K programs.
- **ECONOMICS:** Increase opportunity and transform struggling communities into safe and healthier places to live, work and grow.
 - New York has doubled the state Child Care Tax Credit.
 - This year's budget invested \$2.5 billion in affordable and supportive housing and a record-setting \$100 billion infrastructure plan.
- **FAMILY:** Policies can ensure American families have a measure of security, particularly low-income parents of young children.
 - Examples of such policies in New York state include the state's precedent-setting minimum wage increase; the state's comprehensive paid family leave program; and the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative.
 - New York has created the ground-breaking Liberty Defense Fund with \$10 million to provide access to representation for immigrants and their families regardless of residency status.

Sherry Cleary, co-chair of the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), said “our members are dedicated to a comprehensive approach to early childhood well-being and strive to create coordinated and responsive systems that include the implementation of QUALITYstarsNY, supporting the alignment of New York’s pre-kindergarten programs, focusing on universal screening, and strengthening our workforce. The ECAC considers opportunities to impact the lives of families with young children and to maximize public investments, using a tool called the [Fiscal Analysis Model for Early Childhood Services](#).

Larry Marx, Chief Executive Officer of the Children’s Agenda, says "Children are the most likely New Yorkers by far to be living in poverty. But programs centered on children alone don't help struggling parents, and programs centered on adults alone often treat children as barriers to employment. Dual-generation solutions, like evidence-based home visitation and child care subsidies, are the answer. Those dual-generation solutions only happen at scale if the entire state gets behind them, just as the unprecedented collective work of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative is pulling together government, business, nonprofits, and others in common cause."

Release Information

The 2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book will be available June 13 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at 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 datacenter.kidscount.org.

About the Council on Children and Families

The Council on Children and Families is authorized to coordinate the state health, education and human services systems to provide more effective systems of care for children and families. Follow the Council on Twitter @nysccf and bookmark our website, <http://www.ccf.ny.gov>.

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.

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