

Overall Child Well-Being in the United States

Each domain below includes four key indicators. Find more information and the definitions and data sources for indicators at: datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2012.

Trends for Child Well-Being Indicators in the United States

9
IMPROVED

6
WORSENERD

1
UNCHANGED



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Family economic success provides a critical foundation for healthy child development, which, in turn, promotes success in adulthood. Ongoing exposure to economic stress and hardship can negatively affect children's physical and mental health, academic achievement and social-emotional well-being.



EDUCATION

Establishing the conditions that promote successful educational achievement for children begins before birth and continues into the early elementary school years. With a strong and healthy beginning, it is much easier to keep children on track to stay in school and graduate, pursue postsecondary education and training and successfully transition to young adulthood.



HEALTH

Children's health is the foundation for their overall development, and ensuring that they are born healthy is the first step toward increasing the life chances of disadvantaged children. Poverty, poor nutrition, lack of preventive health care, substance abuse, maternal depression and family violence can put children's health at risk, affecting later outcomes.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

When children are nurtured and well cared for during their first five years, they have better social-emotional, language and learning outcomes. These lead to more positive behavior and academic achievement in their later years. But when families and neighborhoods lack sufficient human and social resources, children's well-being can suffer.

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

PERCENT CHANGE OVER TIME



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Key Indicators		National Trend	
Children in poverty	2010	22%	16%
	2005	19%	
Children whose parents lack secure employment	2010	33%	22%
	2008	27%	
Children living in households with a high housing cost burden	2010	41%	11%
	2005	37%	
Teens not in school and not working	2010	9%	13%
	2008	8%	



EDUCATION

Key Indicators		National Trend	
Children not attending preschool	2008-10	53%	-5%
	2005-07	56%	
Fourth graders not proficient in reading	2011	68%	-3%
	2005	70%	
Eighth graders not proficient in math	2011	66%	-8%
	2005	72%	
High school students not graduating on time	2008/09	24%	-11%
	2005/06	27%	



HEALTH

Key Indicators		National Trend	
Low-birthweight babies	2009	8.2%	0%
	2005	8.2%	
Children without health insurance	2010	8%	-20%
	2008	10%	
Child and teen deaths per 100,000	2009	27	-16%
	2005	32	
Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs	2008-09	7%	-13%
	2005-06	8%	



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Key Indicators		National Trend	
Children in single-parent families	2010	34%	6%
	2005	32%	
Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma	2010	15%	-6%
	2005	16%	
Children living in high-poverty areas	2006-10	11%	22%
	2000	9%	
Teen births per 1,000	2009	39	-3%
	2005	40	