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**Child Poverty in Connecticut Has Increased Since 1990 despite Education Gains, New National Publication Reports**

*Number of children living in poverty has increased by 50 percent in the past 25 years according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2014 KIDS COUNT Data Book*

**Hartford** – The number of children living in poverty in Connecticut has increased by 50 percent since 1990, according to a new report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Nationwide, child poverty numbers are up since the recent recession, with nearly 16.4 million children in families below the federal poverty level. The good news is that both nationally and in Connecticut there have been steady improvements over the past 25 years in the numbers of children attending preschool and a decline in the number of students not proficient in reading and math.

Connecticut is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> overall on the report's child well-being indicators that span education, health, economic well-being, and family and community context. The state ranked as high as 3<sup>rd</sup> in the pre-recession 2006 and 2007 years. The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* evaluates the latest data on children and families for every state, the District of Columbia, and the nation.

Comparing data collected in 1990, the first year the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* was released, to the most recent available data, the 25th edition of the national *KIDS COUNT Data Book* reveals that in Connecticut:

- **Housing costs are a burden to children and their families.** Over 40 percent of children in Connecticut are living in families that spend 30 percent or more of their income on housing. This places Connecticut near the bottom of all states (43<sup>rd</sup>).
- **More children are living in high poverty neighborhoods.** The percentage of children living in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty has nearly doubled since 1990. There has also been a significant increase in the number of children living in single parent families. In 1990, it was 1 in 5 children; in 2014 the report finds that it is now 1 in 3 children.

- **Children are progressing in the areas of education and health.**

Connecticut's children have improved significantly in education since 1990 – graduation rates and test scores have seen double digit percentage increases, and the state ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on the number of children who report a preschool experience. Connecticut also has a comparatively low-rate of uninsured children, and the lowest child and teen death rate in the country.

“This newest report shows us that Connecticut, one of the wealthiest states in the country, is falling behind,” said Jim Horan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS). “The report also shows that a strong commitment paired with investment can bring about results. In recent years the Governor and the legislature have prioritized universal preschool access, and this year we were ranked number one in children reporting preschool experiences.”

Horan added, “We need to show this same commitment to our state's poorest families in other areas – we need to allocate our time and resources to proven workforce training and support programs, greater affordable housing options, and outreach to our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

As the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is being released in Baltimore, CAHS will be holding a conversation about the findings of the report, and next steps for the state, at a July 22 event at the State's Legislative Office Building, Room 1 B. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The 2014 National *KIDS COUNT Data Book* is available in the [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being. Data Center users can create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and view real-time information on mobile devices.

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*The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) is a nonprofit policy and program organization that promotes family economic security strategies to empower low-income working families to achieve financial independence. Our mission is to end poverty and engage, equip, and empower all families in Connecticut to build a secure future.*

*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](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.*