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New Hampshire Drops in National Child Well-Being Ranking from #1 to #4

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Concord, NH: Demographic, social and economic changes combined with major policy developments have affected the lives of children in both positive and negative ways since 1990, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 25th edition of its annual *Kids Count Data Book*. New Hampshire, which has been ranked first in the nation in overall child well-being for more than ten years, fell in ranking this year, moving from first to fourth behind Massachusetts, Vermont and Iowa.

Mimicking national gains, New Hampshire saw measurable improvements in education, health and safety. More children are attending preschool, the number of children without health insurance declined and the number of teens who abuse alcohol and drugs also decreased.

Despite these positive advancements, negative trends in economic well-being continue to significantly impact the vitality of New Hampshire's children and families. New Hampshire's child poverty rate continues to rise more than the national average, and surged from 9 percent to 16 percent between 2005 and 2012. The number of New Hampshire children whose parents lack secure employment increased by 24 percent since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2008. And, between 2005 and 2012, New Hampshire saw an increase in the number of children in single parent families, from 24 percent to 30 percent (80,000 children); a 25 percent change.

In addition, the high cost of housing continues to affect 39 percent of NH children and their families.

"While we are pleased NH saw improvements in education, health and safety, we're deeply concerned that the economic well-being of New Hampshire's children is not improving," said Ellen Fineberg, Executive Director of NH Kids Count. "Forty-two thousand children living in poverty (two adults and two children living on less than \$24,000 a year), do not have the basics that allow them to fully reach their potential. NH's future vitality is in question."

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While New Hampshire fell in ranking, it is still within the top five states nationally.

For New Hampshire specific data, please visit <http://nhkidscount.org/> for city and county-based data on the well-being of children. The [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) features the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information is available in the newly redesigned [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being.

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New Hampshire Kids Count, an independent nonprofit, is the Annie E. Casey Foundation's New Hampshire partner. NH Kids Count is dedicated to improving the lives of all children by advocating for public initiatives that make a real difference. Together with you, we raise questions, seek answers, foster conversations, and advocate for changes to make New Hampshire the best place to be a kid. For more information, please visit <http://nhkidscount.org>

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.