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**EMBARGOED until JUNE 21, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. EDT**

### **Iowa Ranks 3rd in Latest National KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa ranks third nationally in the 2016 national *KIDS COUNT*<sup>®</sup> *Data Book* report on child well-being, up one place from the position the state held in 2015. The 27th edition of the annual *Data Book*, from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, compares and ranks the 50 states on 16 child and family well-being indicators in four separate domains.

Nationally, Iowa ranks third among all states in the health domain and in the top ten in two other domains: fourth in economic well-being and fifth in family and community. The state just missed the top ten in education, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> when compared to other states.

Since 2008, Iowa experienced an increase in the percentages of children living in poverty and in single parent families, which both rose seven percent. However, the percentage of children without health insurance and the teen birth rate have shown improvement since that time, decreasing 50 percent and 39 percent, respectively. In addition, the percentage of high school students not graduating on time decreased 21 percent since 2007-08.

“Iowa’s third place ranking overall is a reflection of 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. “However, there are a few indicators such as child poverty and single parent families that have worsened the past few years. One in seven children in Iowa live in poverty. While the economy has recovered for some, we see a widening gap that leaves some children behind.”

The 2016 *Data Book* will be available June 21 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Additional information is available at <http://datacenter.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.

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

*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. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org) or follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation on this issue on Twitter @aecfkidscount and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT>.*

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