



## Council on Children and Families

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### 2016 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* finds child well-being for New York's children improves in health and education

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book*, released today, ranks New York state seventh in the nation in children's health and 19<sup>th</sup> in education when compared to other states. The state's overall ranking is 29<sup>th</sup>. State rankings are based on 16 measures in the areas of health; education; economic security; and family and community.

*The 2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book* revealed New York children's well-being improved or remained the same in 11 of 16 measures of child well-being. Currently, 97 in 100 children in New York have health insurance. One notable improvement was a drop in the percent of high school students who do not graduate on time.

Two key areas of child well-being - economic well-being and family and community - still pose challenges. Two measures related to family and community well-being improved and two other measures declined; economic well-being declined in two of the four metrics. In particular, 23 percent of New York's children live in poverty - up from 19 percent in 2008.

#### Solutions based on American values

The Casey Foundation offers a number of 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 to prepare all children for success in school.
  - This year the state invested more than ever before through innovative programs; record levels of funding; and common sense reform. For example, New York's budget included \$22 million in funding for pre-kindergarten slots for three and four-year-olds.
- **ECONOMICS:** Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-income workers who do not have dependent children. This strategy will bolster workers who may be helping to support children who do not live with them – workers who struggle to get by on low wages.
  - This year's budget permanently extended the noncustodial EITC. Now noncustodial parents who are up to date on child support benefit from a modified (lower) EITC.
- **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 are the precedent-setting minimum wage increase; the comprehensive paid family leave program; and the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative.

More detailed information about child well-being at the state and national level is provided in the 2016 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*.

The Council on Children and Families is authorized to coordinate the state's health, education and human services systems as a means 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>.

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