

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO until Tuesday, June 13, 2017 12:01 a.m. EDT

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NEW HAMPSHIRE RANKS FIRST IN CHILD WELL-BEING

Granite State still needs support to improve the health and well-being for all children in New Hampshire

CONCORD, N.H., June 13, 2017 — New Hampshire ranks number one in overall child well-being, according to the *2017 KIDS COUNT® Data Book* released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a landmark achievement for the Granite State. As policies and practices continue to make great progress for New Hampshire's children, considerable strides still need to be made when it comes to education and health, particularly for youth who are abusing drugs and alcohol and children ages 3 and 4 who are not attending school.

“The *2017 Data Book* shows that we should be very proud of the work being done in New Hampshire to support children and families, but we cannot be complacent when it comes to what else we can do,” said **Rebecca Woitkowski**, early childhood policy coordinator at New Futures. “One major area in which we fall short is the high rate of alcohol and drug abuse among teens. We know from much of our work that providing strong support in early childhood, including quality, affordable child care and full-day kindergarten, drastically reduces future substance misuse.”

The annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* uses 16 indicators to rank each state across four domains – health, education, economic well-being and family and community – that represent what children need most to thrive. New Hampshire ranks:

- **Fourth in economic well-being.** New Hampshire had the lowest rates of child poverty at 11 percent, but that still leaves 28,000 children living below the poverty line.
- **Third in education.** New Hampshire ranked sixth for the number of 3-and-4-year olds not enrolled in school. And although among the top 10 in the nation, 47 percent of young children are not receiving early education, which research has demonstrated is critical for development and long-term success.
- **18th in health.** An area of concern is the number of young people ages 12 to 17 who abused alcohol or drugs. New Hampshire ranks 35th in this indicator and is at a rate 10 percent higher than the national average. Although troubling, its ranking is an improvement from 2014, when the Granite State was 44th in this indicator.

Release Information

The *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* will be available June 13 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at www.aecf.org/databook, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of indicators of child well-being. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.kidscount.org.

New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents. New Futures Kids Count is a branch of New Futures focused on collecting and disseminating critical and reliable state-level data, policy recommendations, and tools for legislators, public officials, and advocates to advance positive policies for Granite State children and families. Learn more at www.NewFutures.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.

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