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Iowa Ranks Fifth in Latest National *KIDS COUNT* Child Well-Being Report

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa ranks fifth nationally in the 2018 national *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The 29th edition of the annual child well-being report compares and ranks the 50 states on 16 child and family well-being indicators in four separate domains.

Nationally, Iowa ranks fourth among all states in the economic well-being domain and in the top 10 in the three other domains: seventh in education, eighth in health and eighth in family and community.

Since 2010, Iowa has experienced a 4 percent increase in the number of children living in single parent families. The child poverty rate, which had been decreasing the previous few years, has shown no change between 2014 and 2016. However, the teen birth rate has decreased 41 percent since 2010, and the percentage of children without health insurance and percentage of high school students not graduating on time both have shown improvement during this time period, each decreasing 25 percent.

“Iowa continues to rank among the top states in the annual KIDS COUNT report, and this year’s fifth-place ranking is a reflection of the value people in Iowa place on providing for children and families,” said Michael Crawford, Iowa KIDS COUNT director with the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. “The teen birth rate, child health insurance rate and on-time high school graduation percentage all have improved during the first half of this decade. However, a few indicators, such as single parent families and child poverty, have worsened or stagnated the past few years. More than one in seven children in Iowa still live in poverty, with that number being higher for children of color.”

The *2018 Data Book* will be available June 27 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. The [KIDS COUNT Data Center](http://www.aecf.org/databook) 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 under the Kids Count link and provide users with data and maps on 20 indicators of child well-being.

About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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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