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Iowa Ranks Third in Latest National KIDS COUNT® Child Well-Being Report

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa ranks third nationally in the 2019 national *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* report released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The 30th 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 second 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, the state has experienced a 13 percent increase in the child and teen death rate. The percentages of children in single-parent families and of young children attending preschool have shown only minor fluctuations and are at the same level as the beginning of the decade. However, the teen birth rate has decreased 45 percent since 2010, and the percentages of children without health insurance and of high school students not graduating on time both have shown improvement during this time period, each decreasing 25 percent.

“Iowa again ranks among the top states in the annual KIDS COUNT report, and this year’s third-place ranking is a reflection of the importance 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 percentages all have improved during this decade. However, a few indicators, such as child and teen deaths, single parent families and children attending preschool, have worsened or stagnated the past few years. More than half of children ages 3 and 4 in Iowa are not attending preschool, which may become problematic when they enter grade school.”

The *2019 Data Book* will be available June 17 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](#) 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 and state data. These data are available at www.cfpciowa.org under the Kids Count link and provide users with data and maps on 21 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.

About the Child and Family Policy Center

The Child and Family Policy Center is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization promoting outcome-based policies that improve child well-being. It focuses on a range of policy areas in Iowa, including child care and early education, health and well-being, and family economic success. CFPC also conducts national evaluation work focused on early-childhood system building and policy development promoting comprehensive, asset-based approaches to supporting children and families. Learn more at www.cfpciowa.org.

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