

**UNDER EMBARGO until June 9, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. ET**

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**Colorado Ranks 12<sup>th</sup> for Child Well-Being in *2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book* as Colorado Children’s Campaign Urges Focus on Supporting Thriving Kids and Families**

*Most children have health coverage and graduation rates and test scores are improving, but the high cost of housing and other basic needs continues to affect child well-being, the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds*

**Denver, CO** —Colorado ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in child well-being, according to the *2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a 50-state report of recent data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how kids are faring in post-pandemic America.

**Health coverage** among Colorado kids remains high, reflecting local, state, and federal efforts to ensure children have access to health coverage and care. And Colorado was ranked in the top 10 states for **family and community context**, in part due to the low share of children living in areas with concentrated poverty. However, the report also highlights high rates of mortality among children and teens and continued affordability challenges in Colorado.

The state’s graduation rate, which has improved over the last decade, and test scores helped place the state in the top 10 for education. Yet more than half of Colorado children did not meet proficiency standards in reading and math.

“Colorado can celebrate long-term improvements in health coverage and in the share of children living in poverty, as well as the growth we have seen in graduation rates and test scores since the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Maya Gould, Vice President of Research** at the Colorado Children’s Campaign, the Casey Foundation’s Colorado partner organization. “But the data in this year’s national KIDS COUNT report also push us to keep working to create a world where all kids can thrive.”

“It is clear we must continue to invest in our schools and in effective educational approaches so more children are reading and doing math on grade level,” said **Heather Tritten, President and CEO of the Colorado Children’s Campaign**. “We must build a Colorado where families can afford to meet their basic needs, including housing. We must increase our understanding of troubling trends in child mortality and make sure Colorado’s young people are flourishing into adulthood.”

“And, critically, we need to continue federal support for health coverage and other programs that support children’s well-being,” Tritten said. “Medicaid, Head Start, SNAP

and other federal programs help families meet their children’s basic needs – and Colorado is not able to fill in the gaps at the state level if federal funding is cut.”

Each year, the *Data Book* presents national and state data from 16 indicators in four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community factors — and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall.

Colorado’s *Data Book* rankings in 2025, compared with 2024 rankings (in parentheses), were as follows:

- **Overall Rank: 12** (2024 ranking: 17)
- **Economic well-being: 15** (2024 ranking: 14)
- **Education: 9** (2024 ranking: 15)
- **Health: 24** (2024 ranking: 28)
- **Family & Community Context: 9** (2024 ranking: 9)

Nationwide, since 2019, seven of the 16 key indicators have improved, six have worsened and three have not changed. Positive trends include reductions in child poverty, children living in high-poverty areas and teen births, and increases in health insurance coverage, parental employment and education levels, and on-time high school graduation.

However, the number of teenagers across the country who are disconnected from school or work has risen sharply, academic outcomes are still worse than before the COVID-19 pandemic, and, most concerning, more young people are dying. Many of these shifts reflect decades-long trends, while others highlight the resilience of kids and families after pandemic setbacks — and the success of pandemic-era policies in strengthening support for those who needed it most.

In its 36th year of publication, the *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* provides reliable statewide numbers to help leaders see where progress is being made, where greater support is needed and which strategies are making a difference. The Colorado Children’s Campaign encourages lawmakers and officials to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and respond with initiatives that invest in young people. By offering a local road map, the *Data Book* equips policymakers, advocates and communities with the information they need to make decisions that help kids and young people thrive.

“To truly become a country that equips every child to thrive as adults, our leaders need focus, creativity and commitment,” said **Lisa Lawson, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation**. “The *Data Book*’s findings call on leaders at every level to act boldly to build a strong future, relying on what we know works.”

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## **RELEASE INFORMATION**

The *2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book* will be available at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://www.aecf.org/databook). Additional information is available at [www.aecf.org/databook](http://www.aecf.org/databook). Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at [datacenter.aecf.org](http://datacenter.aecf.org).

## **ABOUT THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's young people 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](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.