



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

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Delaware Ranks 30th in 2025 *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, and Struggles With Poor Educational Outcomes

Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation Reveal Low Proficiency Rates in Reading and Math for Delaware Students

NEWARK, DE — Delaware ranks 30th in the nation in overall 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.

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.

By issue area, Delaware ranks 17th out of all states in economic well-being, 27th in child health, 33rd in family and community, and 37th in education. Despite Delaware’s high economic ranking, the data show Delaware leaders must do more to prepare children to learn so they are ready to earn when they reach adulthood.

“We know what kids need to grow up healthy and connected so they can thrive as adults,” said Janice Barlow, director of KIDS COUNT in Delaware. “Stable homes, strong schools, nutritious food, meaningful relationships and opportunities to learn, play and grow are foundational to child development. Programs that meet these needs are smart investments, fostering long-term gains like employment and economic growth.”

In its 36th year of publication, the *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* provides reliable national and state-level data, which help leaders see where progress is being made, where greater support is needed and which strategies are making a difference. KIDS COUNT in Delaware encourages policymakers and officials in Delaware to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and respond with initiatives that invest in young people. By offering both a big-picture view and 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 throughout their lives.

This year’s trends paint a complex picture: steady progress in some areas, setbacks in others and persistent opportunities to do better for kids and their families. Since 2019, eight of Delaware’s 16 key indicators have improved, six have worsened and two have not changed. Positive trends include reductions in child poverty, low birth-weight babies and teen births, along with increases in parental employment and education levels.

However, academic outcomes are still worse than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Fewer young children are in school, fourth grade reading and eighth grade math proficiency scores have plummeted, and fewer high school students are graduating on time.

“Staying grounded in data and funding programs that help support kids to grow up to thrive as successful adults are smart investments, fostering long-term gains like employment and economic growth,” Barlow said.

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RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2025 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* will be available at www.aecf.org. Additional information is available at 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.

ABOUT KIDS COUNT IN DELAWARE

KIDS COUNT in Delaware, a project of the Center for Community Research and Service within the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware, is a collaborative effort of over forty organizations to enrich local and state discussion concerning ways to secure better lives for all of Delaware’s children by providing policy makers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being. Learn more at www.dekidscount.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. KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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