



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

Contact: Christine Tiddens, ctiddens@jannus.org

IDAHO'S CHILD WELL-BEING RANKS IN TOP THIRD OF NATION, WITH DECREASES IN CHILD POVERTY

50-State Data in Annie E. Casey Foundation Report Reveals Idaho is Falling Behind Other States in Family Housing Cost Burden and Health Insurance Coverage

Boise, Idaho — Idaho ranks 15th 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. The data highlights opportunities for Idaho leaders to invest in programs proven to improve child health and well-being.

"This year's trends paint a complex picture regarding the well-being of Idaho's children," explained Christine Tiddens, executive Director of Idaho Voices for Children. "While Idaho saw progress in the decrease of child poverty and teen births, we also experienced notable increases in family housing costs and the number of uninsured children. State leaders can use this data to better understand where progress is happening and where greater support is needed."

In its 36th year of publication, the *KIDS COUNT Data Book* offers both a big-picture view and a local road map to equip policymakers, advocates and communities with the information they need to make decisions and investments in programs that help kids and young people thrive throughout their lives. Since 2019, eight of Idaho's 16 key indicators have improved, seven have worsened and one has not changed. Positive trends include reductions in child poverty, teen births, and overweight teens. Negative trends include increases in family housing cost burden, teens not attending school and not working, and uninsured children.

2025 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK EXAMINES IDAHO'S CHILD WELL-BEING

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. Key findings from the most recent data include:

- ▶ **ECONOMIC WELL-BEING:** Idaho ranked **19th in the nation** on the *Data Book* economic well-being domain, a slight improvement from last year's ranking.
 - In 2023, 11% of Idaho children lived in poverty. Between 2019 and 2023, Idaho saw a decrease in child poverty of 15%.
 - Just over one-quarter (27%) of Idaho children lived in families with a housing cost burden in 2023, meaning these families spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
 - About 8% of Idaho teens aged 16 to 19 were not attending school and not working in 2023. Between 2019 and 2023, Idaho saw the nation's largest percentage increase (60%) in this category.
- ▶ **EDUCATION:** Idaho ranked **40th in the nation** on the *Data Book* education domain, a slight decrease from last year's ranking.

- In 2019–23, about two-thirds (64%) of 3- and 4-year-old Idaho children were not attending preschool.
 - In 2021–22, one-fifth (20%) of Idaho high school students were not graduating on time, the fourth highest percent in the country.
 - In 2024, 68% of fourth graders were not proficient in reading and 69% of eighth graders were not proficient in math.
- **HEALTH:** Idaho ranked **14th in the nation** on the *Data Book* health domain, a five point decrease from last year’s ranking.
- In 2023, 7% of children did not have health insurance, a 40% increase from 2019 to 2023.
 - One-quarter (24%) of teens ages 10 to 17 were overweight or obese between 2022 and 2023, the second-lowest percentage in the country.
- **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY:** Idaho ranked **5th in the nation** on the *Data Book* family and community domain, the state’s highest ranking in the *Data Book* and a slight decrease from last year’s ranking.
- In 2023, 24% of Idaho children lived in single-parent households, the third lowest percentage in the country.
 - The teen birth rate dropped to a record low of 10 teen births per 1,000 teen girls in 2023, a 33% decrease from 2019 to 2023.

POLICIES ARE NEEDED TO PROMOTE CHILD WELL-BEING ACROSS ALL DOMAINS

“By staying grounded in data and driven by what children and families say they need, we can help ensure that all young people have the chance to thrive and contribute meaningfully as adults, helping to grow our future workforce, reduce long-term social and economic costs and build a stronger society for everyone,” said Lisa Lawson, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation.

We know what kids need to grow up healthy and connected: Stable homes, strong schools, nutritious food, meaningful relationships and opportunities to learn, play and grow. Programs that meet these needs are smart investments, fostering long-term gains like employment and economic growth. Idaho Voices for Children encourages state legislators, officials and Congress to use the detailed information in the *Data Book* to respond with initiatives that invest in young people, including:

- **Protect children’s Medicaid services:** Medicaid provides low-income children with health insurance and is a critical lifeline to essential care they would otherwise go without. Lawmakers must prioritize ensuring Medicaid eligible children get covered and stay covered.
- **Invest in Affordable Housing:** Idaho’s rental housing crisis is primarily caused by a severe shortage of affordable homes available to families with low incomes. To address the crisis, lawmakers must invest in building affordable rental homes, ensure rental assistance is universally available and strengthen renter protections.
- **Renew Idaho’s Child Tax Credit:** The Child Tax Credit is a tax incentive that provides tax relief for families with children. It is offered by the federal government and 16 states, including Idaho, to enhance the economic security of families with children, particularly those in low- to middle- income brackets. With Idaho’s state Child Tax Credit expiring at the end of the year, legislators have the opportunity to renew a program proven to end child poverty.

“It is essential that Idaho policymakers consider the data and what it is telling us about the needs of our youth. We have an opportunity to get ahead of the increasing housing costs and growing number of uninsured children and make a down payment on our future,” concluded Tiddens. “Idaho lawmakers must prioritize critical financial supports for families who are struggling to make ends meet.”

###

RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book will be available at www.aecf.org/databook. 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 IDAHO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Idaho Voices for Children works to develop and promote a statewide public policy agenda that advocates for children on issues of health, education, safety, well-being and family economic security. Learn more at www.idahovoices.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.