

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

Heather Good
Indiana Youth Institute
hgood@iyi.org | 574.354.8687

Indiana 25th in Overall Child Well-Being in the 2025 KIDS COUNT® Data Book, Indicating Progress and Opportunities to Do Better for Hoosier Kids and Families

Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds Indiana’s overall Child Well-Being has improved with highest rankings for Economic Well-Being and Education in over a decade

Indianapolis, IN — Indiana ranks 25th 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. Indiana Youth Institute leads this important data collection and analysis in Indiana as our state’s *KIDS COUNT® Data* affiliate.

Every year, the *Data Book* presents national and state data from 16 indicators across four domains—Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family & Community factors—and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall.

This year, compared to other states, Indiana ranks 25th overall, compared to Indiana’s 2024 overall child well-being rank of 27.

Economic Well-Being	Education	Health	Family & Community	Overall Well-Being
11 th	11 th	30 th	31 st	25 th

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. 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.

“This year’s KIDS COUNT rankings reflect encouraging momentum. Indiana rose to 11th in both Economic Well-Being and Education—our highest rankings in these indicators in over a decade—demonstrating that investments in children and families make a meaningful impact,” said Tami Silverman, President and CEO of Indiana Youth Institute. “We know what kids need to grow up healthy and connected so they can thrive as adults: 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 workforce development and economic growth.”

Economic Well-Being: 11th ranking is up from 15th last year

Indicator of Well-being	Prior Data (2019)	Current Data (2023)	How We’re Doing
Children in poverty	15%	15%	Same

Children whose parents lack secure employment	27%	23%	Better
Children living in households with a high housing cost burden	21%	23%	Worse
Teens not in school and not working	7%	5%	Better

Comparison with most recent national trends: Indiana’s 2023 data was better than the national data in all four categories: children in poverty (15%) compared to 16% nationally; children whose parents lack secure employment (23%) compared to 25% nationally; children living in households with a high housing cost burden (23%) compared to 30% nationally; and teens not in school and not working (5%) compared to 7% nationally.

Education: 11th ranking is up from 17th last year

Indicator of well-being	Prior Data	Current Data	How We’re Doing
Young children (ages 3 and 4) not in school	59% (2014-18)	60% (2019-23)	Worse
4th graders not proficient in reading	63% (2019)	66% (2024)	Worse
8th graders not proficient in math	63% (2019)	69% (2024)	Worse
High school students not graduating on time	13% (2018-2019)	12% (2021-22)	Better

Comparison with most recent national trends: Indiana’s data showed better performance than the national averages in three education indicators: 4th graders not proficient in reading (66%) compared to 70% nationally; 8th graders not proficient in math (69%) compared to 73% nationally; and high school students not graduating on time (12%) compared to 13% nationally. However, Indiana performed worse in the percentage of young children ages 3 and 4 not in school (60%) compared to 54% nationally.

Health: 30th Ranking is up from 32nd last year

Indicator of Well-Being	Prior Data	Current Data	How We’re Doing
Low birth-weight babies	8.2% (2019)	8.6% (2023)	Worse
Children without health insurance	7% (2019)	6% (2023)	Better
Child and teen deaths per 100,000	29 (2019)	34 (2023)	Worse
Children and teens (ages 10 to 17) who are overweight or obese	36% (2018-2019)	30% (2022-2023)	Better

Comparison with most recent national trends: There are positive improvements in Indiana’s health ranking with two indicators in alignment with national trends: children and teens ages 10 to 17 who are overweight or obese (30%) compared to 31% nationally, and low birth-weight babies (8.6%) compared to 8.6% nationally. Indiana is below the national average for children without health insurance (6%) compared to 5% nationally; and worse for child and teen deaths per 100,000 (34 deaths) compared to 29 deaths nationally.

Family & Community: 31st ranking is unchanged from last year

Indicator of Well-Being	Prior Data	Current Data	How We're Doing
Children in single-parent families	35% (2019)	33% (2023)	Better
Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma	11% (2019)	10% (2023)	Better
Children living in high poverty areas	10% (2014-2018)	7% (2019-2023)	Better
Teen births per 1,000	21 (2019)	16 (2023)	Better

Comparison with most recent national trends: While Indiana’s Family & Community ranking remained steady, the state is performing slightly better than national trends in several areas: children in single-parent families (33%) compared to 34% nationally; children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma (10%) compared to 11% nationally; and children living in high-poverty areas (7%) compared to 8% nationally. However, Indiana is doing slightly worse in teen births per 1,000 at 16 births compared to 13 births nationally.

“When Indiana’s kids and families thrive, our entire state moves forward,” said Silverman. “These rankings are a reminder that while we’re seeing real gains in key areas, we must continue to focus on what works—ensuring that every child and every family has the support they need to grow, contribute, and thrive.”

These indicators represent the best available data measuring the status of child well-being at the state and national levels. For a more thorough description of the KIDS COUNT index, visit www.aecf.org/resources/the-new-kids-count-index.

###

RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2025 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* will be available on June 9, 2025 at www.aecf.org/databook. Additional information is available at 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 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.

About Indiana Youth Institute

Indiana Youth Institute’s mission is to improve the lives of all Indiana children by strengthening

and connecting the people, organizations, and communities that are focused on kids and youth. IYI is Indiana's premier source for high-quality data on child well-being and data-informed action to challenges Hoosier children face. To learn more, visit iyi.org.

Each year, IYI publishes the *Indiana KIDS COUNT*[®] *Data Book*, now in its 31st edition, which provides insight into the issues Hoosier youth are facing today and a data-driven understanding of opportunities and achievement gaps in the lives of Indiana kids. The *2025 Indiana KIDS COUNT Data Book* was released in February 2025. Download the Data Book here: <https://iyi.org/resources/indiana-kids-count-data-book/>.