



A Trusted Voice For Kids.



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Utah Ranks 3rd in 2026 KIDS COUNT® Data Book as Voices for Utah Children Urges Focus on Supporting Thriving Kids and Families; Utah's score of 759 is above the national average.

New KIDS COUNT® data show Utah remains a leader in family stability outcomes for children in the nation, with rankings and trend data taken from the comprehensive 2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - Utah ranks third in child well-being, according to the **2026 KIDS COUNT® Data Book**, a 50-state report of recent data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how kids are faring nationwide. The data show Utah leaders must do more for health policy. Utah's biggest challenge moving forward may be sustaining educational gains while continuing to improve health outcomes.

For the first time this year, states receive a comprehensive score (from 0 to 1,000) in the Data Book, not just a ranking. The scores track 16 indicators in four domains — economic well-being, education, health, and family and community factors — over five years from 2019 to 2024. The new scoring system shows whether policies and public investment are improving children's lives, not merely how states compare to each other. Utah received a score of 759, above the national score of 547, with the highest scores in the 922 Family and Community domain.

“Between 2019 and 2024, Utah's diverse communities demonstrated remarkable resilience and consistency in supporting children and families. While states across the country faced major disruptions during and after the pandemic, Utah not only maintained its position among the nation's top-performing states but also improved to 3rd overall in child well-being. The data shows Utah as a state that continues to lead through strong family and community support systems, solid economic stability, even as challenges in education recovery and child health remain important priorities moving forward,” said Martín C. Muñoz, KIDS COUNT Director of Voices for Utah Children, Utah member of the Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT network.

The Anne E. Casey Foundation and the KIDS COUNT® project clearly highlight that, with the support of the state partners, “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 employment and economic growth.”

In its 37th 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. Voices for Utah Children encourages Utah lawmakers and officials to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and to 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.



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Utah's impressive national rank is encouraging, but the data also clearly show that ongoing progress cannot be taken for granted. As the state works to maintain its leadership in child well-being, policymakers, educators, business leaders, community groups, and families must keep investing in systems that help children thrive, especially in education recovery, child health, and economic stability for working families. By building on Utah's strengths and tackling emerging issues early, Utah can ensure every child the opportunity to succeed, no matter where they live or what challenges they face.

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RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2026 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 Voices for Utah Children

Voices for Utah Children advocates and advances policies and practices that are good for all of Utah's children. At Voices for Utah Children, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. And to achieve this vision, we ensure that all kids are ready to learn and that their families are healthy and economically secure. For more information, visit www.utahchildren.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.