

# ***Kids Count***

# ***2009***

***State Profiles of Child Well-Being***

Southern Early Childhood Association



**A Summary of the SECA States**

## **NOTES**

*Excerpted from the Summary and Findings*

*2009 Kids Count Data Book • Annie E. Casey Foundation • [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)*

- Although the 10 key indicators don't capture the full range of conditions shaping children's lives, these indicators possess three important attributes:
  1. They reflect a wide range of factors affecting the well-being of children, such as health, adequacy of income and educational attainment.
  2. They reflect experiences across a range of developmental stages-from birth through early adulthood.
  3. They permit legitimate comparisons because they are consistent across states and over time.
- The 10 key indicators of child well-being used in the report are all derived from federal government statistical agencies and reflect the best available state-level data for tracking yearly changes in each indicator.
- Small differences, within a state over time or between states, may simply reflect random fluctuations, rather than real changes in the well-being of children.
- In 2009, some dimensions of well-being improved, some worsened, and some showed little change. However, the overriding picture that these 10 indicators present is one of little change since 2000.
- The portrait of change in child well-being since 2000 stands in stark contrast to the period just prior to 2000. Between 1996 and 2000, 8 of the 10 key indicators used in KIDS COUNT improved. The improvement was experienced by every major racial group and in nearly all of the states.
- Between 1994 and 2000, the child poverty rate fell by 30%. Since 2000, however, improvements have stalled and the child poverty rate has increased by 6%.

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### **Highest and Lowest Ranking States on Key Indicators**

<b>Key Indicators</b>	<b>Highest Ranking State</b>	<b>Lowest Ranking State</b>
Percent Low-Birthweight babies	Alaska	Mississippi
Infant Mortality Rate	Washington	Mississippi
Child Death Rate	Connecticut	Alaska
Teen Death Rate	Rhode Island	Arkansas Arizona
Teen Birth Rate	New Hampshire	Mississippi
Percent of Teens Who are High School Dropouts	North Dakota	Nevada
Percent of Teens Not Attending School & Not Working	Minnesota North Dakota	Nevada
Percent of Children Living in Families Where no Parent Has Full-time, Year-round Employment	Utah	Mississippi
Percent of Children in Poverty in 2007	New Hampshire	Mississippi
Percent of Children in Single Parent Families	Utah	Mississippi

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Table 2, page 37*

### **National Ranking of SECA States on Key Indicators**

<b>State</b>	<b>National Rank</b>
Alabama	48
Arkansas	47
Florida	36
Georgia	42
Kentucky	41
Louisiana	49
Mississippi	50
North Carolina	37
Oklahoma	44
South Carolina	45
Tennessee	46
Texas	34
Virginia	16
West Virginia	38

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 41*

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### **Percent of Low-Birthweight Babies: 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>National Rank</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Alabama	48	10.5
Arkansas	41	9.2
Florida	34	8.7
Georgia	44	9.6
Kentucky	39	9.1
Louisiana	49	11.4
Mississippi	50	12.4
North Carolina	39	9.1
Oklahoma	25	8.3
South Carolina	47	10.1
Tennessee	44	9.6
Texas	29	8.4
Virginia	25	8.3
West Virginia	46	9.7

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 43*

### **Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1000 live births): 2006**

<b>State</b>	<b>National Rank</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Alabama	48	9.0
Arkansas	46	8.5
Florida	32	7.3
Georgia	42	8.1
Kentucky	36	7.5
Louisiana	49	9.9
Mississippi	50	10.6
North Carolina	42	8.1
Oklahoma	40	8.0
South Carolina	45	8.4
Tennessee	47	8.7
Texas	19	6.2
Virginia	29	7.1
West Virginia	33	7.4

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 45*

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**Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14): 2006**

State	National Rank	Rate
Alabama	43	27
Arkansas	44	28
Florida	39	23
Georgia	26	21
Kentucky	26	21
Louisiana	42	26
Mississippi	47	30
North Carolina	26	21
Oklahoma	45	29
South Carolina	34	22
Tennessee	34	22
Texas	26	21
Virginia	9	16
West Virginia	20	19

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 47

**Teen Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19): 2006**

State	National Rank	Rate
Alabama	47	93
Arkansas	49	98
Florida	31	72
Georgia	28	71
Kentucky	32	75
Louisiana	43	89
Mississippi	44	91
North Carolina	28	71
Oklahoma	40	85
South Carolina	32	75
Tennessee	44	91
Texas	22	64
Virginia	16	60
West Virginia	37	84

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 49

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**Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19): 2006**

State	National Rank	Rate
Alabama	39	54
Arkansas	46	62
Florida	33	45
Georgia	39	54
Kentucky	42	55
Louisiana	39	54
Mississippi	50	68
North Carolina	37	50
Oklahoma	45	60
South Carolina	38	53
Tennessee	42	55
Texas	48	63
Virginia	19	35
West Virginia	33	45

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 51

**Percent of Teens Who Are High School Dropouts (ages 16-19): 2007**

State	National Rank	Percentage
Alabama	46	10
Arkansas	23	7
Florida	43	9
Georgia	46	10
Kentucky	36	8
Louisiana	46	10
Mississippi	36	8
North Carolina	36	8
Oklahoma	36	8
South Carolina	43	9
Tennessee	23	7
Texas	36	8
Virginia	11	5
West Virginia	23	7

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 53

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**Percent of Teens Not Attending School & Not Working (ages 16-19): 2007**

State	National Rank	Percentage
Alabama	44	11
Arkansas	44	11
Florida	40	10
Georgia	44	11
Kentucky	31	9
Louisiana	49	12
Mississippi	40	10
North Carolina	31	9
Oklahoma	31	9
South Carolina	31	9
Tennessee	31	9
Texas	31	9
Virginia	16	7
West Virginia	40	10

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 55

**Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment: 2007**

State	National Rank	Percentage
Alabama	43	37
Arkansas	47	39
Florida	20	32
Georgia	26	33
Kentucky	44	38
Louisiana	49	40
Mississippi	50	43
North Carolina	26	33
Oklahoma	38	35
South Carolina	33	34
Tennessee	41	36
Texas	26	33
Virginia	7	28
West Virginia	44	38

Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 57

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### **Percent of Children in Poverty: 2007**

<b>State</b>	<b>National Rank</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Alabama	45	24
Arkansas	48	26
Florida	25	17
Georgia	37	20
Kentucky	45	24
Louisiana	49	27
Mississippi	50	29
North Carolina	37	20
Oklahoma	41	22
South Carolina	40	21
Tennessee	42	23
Texas	42	23
Virginia	11	13
West Virginia	42	23

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 59*

### **Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families: 2007**

<b>State</b>	<b>National Rank</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Alabama	46	38
Arkansas	42	35
Florida	43	36
Georgia	43	36
Kentucky	31	33
Louisiana	49	42
Mississippi	50	44
North Carolina	38	34
Oklahoma	31	33
South Carolina	46	38
Tennessee	43	36
Texas	26	32
Virginia	18	30
West Virginia	14	29

*Source: 2009 Kids Count Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, page 61*

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## Definitions

- **Percent of Low-Birthweight Babies:** The percentage of live babies weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.) at birth. *Source: US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics*
- **Infant Mortality Rate:** The number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. *Source: US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics*
- **Child Death Rate:** The number of deaths to children between ages 1-14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age range. *Source: US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics*
- **Teen Death Rate:** The number of deaths from all causes to teens between the ages of 15-19, per 100,000 teens in this age group. *Source: Death Statistics: US Center for Disease Control and Prevention*
- **Teen Birth Rate:** The number of births to teenagers between ages 15-19 per 1,000 females in this age group. *Source: US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics*
- **Percent of Teens Who are High-School Dropouts:** The percentage of teenagers between ages 16- 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure. *Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey*
- **Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working:** The percentage of teenagers between ages 16-19 who are not enrolled in school (full or part-time) and not employed (full or part-time). *Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey*
- **Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment:** The share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. *Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey*
- **Percent of Children In Poverty:** The percentage of children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$21,027 for a family of two adults and two children in 2007). *Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey*
- **Percent of Children In Single Parent Families:** The percentage of children under age 18 who live with their own single parent, either in a family or subfamily. In this definition, single-parent families may include cohabiting couples and do not include children living with married stepparents. *Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey*

