



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

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**Rhode Island Ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the 2025 National KIDS COUNT Data Book**  
**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Urges Focus on Supporting Thriving Kids and Families**

*Annually Published Overview of Child Well-Being Show Both Bright Spots  
and Worrying Trends for Advocates and Policymakers*

JUNE 9, 2025 – PROVIDENCE, RI — The Annie E. Casey Foundation today released the 2025 edition of the *KIDS COUNT® Data Book*, an annually published resource that tracks child well-being across the country. Every 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 and by domain.

This year, Rhode Island ranks 19<sup>th</sup> overall in the country for child well-being, compared to last year's ranking of 12<sup>th</sup>. Rhode Island's new, lower ranking is due to declines in the Economic Well-Being and Health domains. In 2024, Rhode Island was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Economic Well-Being and 6<sup>th</sup> in Health and now ranks 24<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

In its 36<sup>th</sup> 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. The *Data Book* reports that three New England states -- New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts -- rank first, second and third for overall child well-being; Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico rank 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>.

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. These reliable national and state-level data help leaders see where progress is happening, where greater support is needed, and which strategies are making a difference.

Rhode Island's rankings for the four domains are below:

- **Economic well-being: 24<sup>th</sup> compared to 9<sup>th</sup> in 2024**

- Percent of children in poverty (income below \$30,900 for a family of two adults and two children in 2023): 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment: 36<sup>th</sup>
  - Percent of children in households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing: 36<sup>th</sup>
  - Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working: 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Education: 28<sup>th</sup> compared to 29<sup>th</sup> in 2024**
    - Percent of young children not in school: 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of 4th graders who scored below proficient reading level: 10<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of 8th graders who scored below proficient math level: 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of high school students not graduating on time: 37<sup>th</sup>
- **Health: 16<sup>th</sup> compared to 6<sup>th</sup> in 2024**
    - Percent low-birthweight babies: 15<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of children without health insurance: 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - Child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19): 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of children and teens ages 10 to 17 who are overweight or obese: 35<sup>th</sup>
- **Family & Community Context: 16<sup>th</sup> compared to 20<sup>th</sup> in 2024**
    - Percent of children in single-parent families: 32<sup>nd</sup>
    - Percent of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma: 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Percent of children living in high-poverty areas (census tracts with poverty rates  $\geq$  30%): 11<sup>th</sup>
    - Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19): 4<sup>th</sup>

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT encourages lawmakers and officials in Rhode Island to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and respond with initiatives that invest in young people. This legislative session priorities include: improving the RI Works Program by updating the cash assistance benefit, increasing the child support pass through, and restoring eligibility to legal permanent residents; establishing baby bonds for RI Works newborns; investing in maternal, infant, and early childhood mental health by permanently funding MomsPRN and PediPRN; improving Rhode Island's paid family leave program, increasing Medicaid rates for pediatric care; and expanding insurance coverage of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) and Licensed Midwives (LMs). All these priorities

are proven strategies to improve family economic well-being and access to health care and address unacceptable and longstanding racial and ethnic disparities.

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.

“We know what kids need to grow up healthy and connected so they can thrive as adults: Stable homes, financially secure families, strong schools, nutritious food, meaningful relationships and opportunities to learn, play and grow,” said Paige Parks, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT’s Executive Director. “Programs that meet these needs are smart investments, fostering long-term gains like employment and economic growth. Investing in kids isn’t just the right thing to do — it’s a smart, future-focused strategy that benefits the whole state.”

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### **RELEASE INFORMATION**

The 2025 KIDS COUNT® *Data Book* will be available at <http://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](http://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](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

### **ABOUT RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education, and development of Rhode Island children with a core focus on equity.

