

2023

KIDS COUNT[®] DATA BOOK

STATE TRENDS IN CHILD WELL-BEING



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

Steve Renne *Co-Chair*
State & Nonprofit Executive (Ret)

Robert Knodell *Co-Chair*
Director
Dept. of Social Services

Bennet Boggs
Commissioner
Dept. of Higher Education

Anna S. Hui
Director, Dept. of Labor and
Industrial Relations

Sandy Karsten
Director
Dept. of Public Safety

Brian Kinkade
MO Hospital Association

Maggie Kost
Acting Director
Dept. of Economic Development

Lowell Kruse
Senior Fellow
Heartland Foundation

Michael A. Middleton
University of MO System (Ret)

Paula Nickelson
Director
Dept. of Health and
Senior Services

Leslie Peck
President, Peck's Insurance and
Financial Services

Loretta Prater
Dean, College of Health
and Human Services (Ret.)
Southeast Missouri State Univ.

Anne Precythe
Director
Dept. of Corrections

David Rost
State Deputy Dept. Director (Ret)

David Russell
State & Private Executive (Ret)

Valerie Huhn
Director
Dept. of Mental Health

Kathryn Swan
President, JCS wireless

Blanche Touhill
Chancellor Emeritus
University of Missouri - St. Louis

Margie Vandeven
Commissioner
Dept. of Elementary and
Secondary Education

Wayne Wallingford
Director
Dept. of Revenue

Bill Dent
Executive Director



Contact: Tracy Greever-Rice | tracy.greeverrice@mofact.org | (573) 823-0092
William Dent | bill.dent@mofact.org | (573) 636-6300

Missouri Ranks 28th in Child Well-Being, but Inaccessible, Unaffordable Child Care Pushes Parents to the Breaking Point

50-State Data Show Economy Loses \$122 Billion a Year as Child Care Challenges Cause Parents to Miss, Quit or Scale Back Work, Annie E. Casey Foundation Finds

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI — Missouri ranks 28th in child well-being, according to the **2023 KIDS COUNT® Data Book**, a 50-state report of recent household data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzing how children and families are faring. Additionally, our country's lack of affordable and accessible child care short-changes children and causes parents in Missouri to frequently miss work or even quit their jobs, while those who can find care are paying dearly for it. These child care challenges cost the American economy billions of dollars each year and force families to juggle professional growth opportunities and child rearing responsibilities.

"The high cost of child care is not just a financial burden on families. It is a societal issue that affects our economy, our workforce, and the future of our children. Accessible and affordable child care should be readily available and affordable for all Missourians," said Tracy Greever-Rice, Program Director of Missouri KIDS COUNT.

The *Data Book* reports too many parents cannot secure child care that is compatible with work schedules and commutes. The *Data Book* reports that in 2020–21, 10% of Missouri children ages birth to five lived in families in which someone quit, changed, or refused a job because of problems with child care. And women are five to eight times more likely than men to experience negative employment consequences related to caregiving.

Even if parents can find an opening at child care near their home, they often can't pay for it. Missouri's average cost of center-based child care for a toddler was \$8,862, 9% of the median income of a married couple and 28% of a single mother's income in the state.

While the cost of care burdens families, child care workers are paid worse than 98% of professions. Median national pay for child care workers was \$28,520 per year or \$13.71 an hour in 2022, less than the wage for retail (\$14.26) and customer service (\$18.16) workers.

The failings of the child care market also affect the current and future health of the American economy, costing \$122 billion a year in lost earnings, productivity and tax revenue, according to one study. All of these challenges put parents under tremendous stress to meet the dual responsibilities of providing for their families and ensuring their children are safe and nurtured.

Each year, the *Data Book* ranks the states according to how children are faring, presenting national and state data from 16 indicators in four domains: economic well-being (Missouri



ranked 18th), education (22nd), health (35th), and family and community factors (25th). Missouri's overall rank of 28th reflects both areas of strength and ways the state can bolster its policies that support child well-being.

"The Annie E. Casey Foundation's national Data Book provides a critical tool for policymakers, advocates, and communities to understand the challenges facing children and families across the country. We are grateful for this valuable resource that enables us to make informed decisions and take targeted actions to improve the well-being of Missouri's families." said William Dent, Executive Director of the Family and Community Trust.

Transitioning from a faltering child care system to creating a flourishing one will take new thinking and investing at the local, state, and national levels. An executive order issued by President Biden in April is aimed at expanding access, lowering costs, and raising wages. It could prove to be a helpful framework, but more is needed:

- Federal, state, and local governments should invest more in child care. State and local governments should maximize remaining pandemic recovery act dollars to fund needed child care services and capacity. Congress should reauthorize and strengthen the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, and increase funding for public pre-kindergarten and Head Start.
- Public and private leaders should work together to improve the infrastructure for home-based child care, beginning by lowering the barriers to entry for potential providers by increasing access to start-up and expansion capital.
- To help young parents, Congress should expand the federal Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program, which serves student parents.

RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2023 *KIDS COUNT*® *Data Book* will be available at www.aecf.org. 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 THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRUST

The Family and Community Trust (FACT) serves as the affiliate for Missouri KIDS COUNT. The Family and Community Trust is the state level, private and public organization that governs a network of twenty Community Partnerships focused on achieving better results for children and families. FACT's KIDS COUNT initiative focuses on child well-being in Missouri. To read data informed stories and access specific data and information about the well-being of children in our state, visit mokidscount.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.

Missouri State Profile

Population: 6,168,187

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend
	2017	2021	2017	2021	
Economic Well-Being					
Children under 18 in poverty	249,829	222,992	18.5%	16.5%	↑
Food insecurity for children ^b	241,830	211,500	17.4%	15.4%	↑
Health					
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	30,810	31,342	8.2%	8.8%	↓
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^{b, c}	9,823	6,876	7.1	5.0	↑
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	11,118	4,964	8.0	3.6	↑
Family & Community					
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	4,300	3,304	22.5	17.0	↑
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	4,529	4,206	3.3	3.0	↑
Education					
High school graduation	59,046	58,710	91.0%	90.8%	↓
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}					
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	25,814	—	41.4%	
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	30,425	—	44.9%	
4th grade math (MAP)	—	22,947	—	36.8%	
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	15,647	—	26.8%	

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

^a Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

^b Data based on 2016 and 2020.

^c Data based on five-year time spans, 2012-2016 and 2017-2021.

^d Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests and algebra I end-of-course exam. Achievement data from 2017 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2021; accordingly, no trend arrows are shown.

Missouri State Profile

Population: 6,168,187

Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2017	6,113,532
	2021	6,168,187
Child population under 18	2017	1,382,971
	2021	1,384,557
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.6%
	2021	22.5%
Child population under 6	2017	449,401
	2021	435,790
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.4%
	2021	7.1%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	349,168
	2021	391,803
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	25.2%
	2021	28.3%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	118,509
	2021	129,021
Minority child population under 6 as % of under-6 child population ^a	2017	26.4%
	2021	29.6%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	32.9%
	2017-2021	24.2%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	66.2%
	2017-2021	66.7%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	20.0%
	2021	15.6%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	17.2%
	2017-2021	15.4%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	26.8%
	2017-2021	26.2%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	35.0%
	2017-2021	30.6%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	32.6%
	2021	28.6%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$ 62,613
	2017-2021	\$ 77,490
Adult unemployment	2017	3.8%
	2021	4.4%
Child homelessness	2017	3.7%
	2021	1.9%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	104.2
	2022	91.7
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	18.4%
	2022	19.9%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.8%
	2021	93.7%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	47.5
	2017-2021	56.5
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	14.1%
	2017-2021	13.3%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	27.1
	2021	18.7
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	2.0%
	2021	1.7%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	5.0
	2021	5.1

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	6.4
	2017-2021	6.0
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	22.9
	2017-2021	27.0
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	17.7
	2017-2021	20.5
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	48.4
	2017-2021	55.5
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18	2012-2016	58.2%
	2017-2021	62.1%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	21.2
	2016-2020	27.2
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	97.8
	2016-2020	124.0
Uninsured children	2016	4.8%
	2020	6.7%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	93.8%
	2021	92.4%

^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.

Missouri Race/Ethnicity Profile

Contextual Indicators

Economic Well-being		Black/ African American	White	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	Two or more races
Children under 18 in poverty	2017	37.6%	14.3%	22.0%	13.5%	23.1%
	2021	41.1%	18.0%	31.0%	12.8%	25.8%
Food insecurity for children ^b	2016	No data available by race/ethnicity				
	2020	No data available by race/ethnicity				

Health		Black/ African American	White	All Others
Low birthweight infants ^a	2012-2016	14.4%	7.1%	8.2%
	2017-2021	15.7%	7.4%	9.3%
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^a	2016	12.6	6.1	7.3
	2020	8.1	3.8	4.5
Child asthma ER visits (per 1,000) ^b	2016	33.3	3.7	7.3
	2020	12.7	1.6	2.7

Family & Community		Black/ African American	White	All Others
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000) ^a	2017	35.4	19.1	28.1
	2021	26.3	14.6	24.0
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	2017	3.8	3.2	1.7
	2021	3.2	2.6	3.0

Education		Black/ African American	White	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	Native American
High school graduation rate	2017	83.6%	93.4%	88.0%	94.7%	90.2%
	2021	81.7%	92.9%	87.2%	95.8%	87.8%
Achievement proficiency ^{b, c} 3rd grade English/ language arts (MAP)	2017	—	—	—	—	—
	2021	15.4%	48.8%	15.4%	51.7%	36.3%
8th grade English/ language arts (MAP)	2017	—	—	—	—	—
	2021	23.7%	50.7%	38.7%	62.5%	41.7%
4th grade math (MAP)	2017	—	—	—	—	—
	2021	9.8%	44.1%	26.3%	53.6%	31.2%
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	2017	—	—	—	—	—
	2021	8.5%	32.5%	20.2%	41.9%	25.9%

^a For this indicator, Hispanics/Latinos are not considered a separate race and may belong to all race groups shown.

^b For this indicator, Hispanics/Latinos are treated as a separate racial/ethnic group and are not included in the other categories.

^c Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests. Achievement data from 2017 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2021.