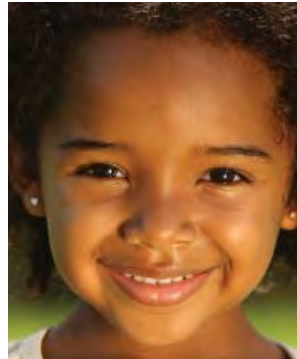


KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book

the State of Our State's Children





GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
65702-751-0222

August, 2012

Greetings:

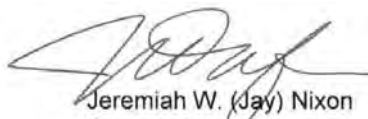
Here in Missouri, we are guided by our commitment to providing a prosperous future to every child in our state. To ensure that all children have access to the services and resources they need to succeed, we must first have a clear and accurate understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing today's young people.

That is why the annual *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* is so important. *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* serves as a valuable resource for communities and leaders across the state as they make important decisions about a range of issues, from providing a quality education, to ensuring that children live healthy lives.

I urge you to consider the information in this report closely as we work together to make sure that all children in Missouri can reach their full potential.

Thank you to Partnership for Children for their continued leadership on children's issues in Missouri. Thanks also to their *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* partners, the Children's Trust Fund and the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, for their continued work to provide important information about Missouri's children.

Sincerely,


Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor



August 2012

Greetings!

As the new *KIDS COUNT* grantee for the state of Missouri, Partnership for Children is pleased to present the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book*. This report provides an annual look at the well-being of Missouri's children and offers reliable data for planning and action to improve the quality of their lives.


One of the most powerful outcomes of the annual *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* report is the awareness of striking, oftentimes troubling, trends that significantly impact our children. This year, the increase in children living in poverty is one of those disturbing trends.

Poverty is one of the main obstacles for many of Missouri's youngest citizens. Research tells us that children growing up in poverty oftentimes struggle with low educational achievement, health problems, emotional challenges and a range of other issues that decrease their chances of success. Because the consequences of being poor in childhood often carry into adulthood, significant economic costs are associated with this trend. This is a trend our children, and our state, cannot afford.

The *2011 KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* provides important information about our children's economic security as well as their health, education and safety. It is our hope that this data will be used by community leaders, policy makers, advocates and others working to set priorities and develop action plans to reverse negative trends.

We look forward to working with you and all our many partners to ensure that Missouri provides the best supports and opportunities for our next generation.

Sincerely,


Charron Townsend
President



KIDS COUNT in Missouri



Welcome to the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book*. The *Data Book* is a collaborative project of Partnership for Children, Children's Trust Fund, the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at the University of Missouri, and more than 20 public and private organizations across the state.

The mission of *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* is to improve the well-being of Missouri's children and families.

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* and web site, <http://osedamissouri.edu/kids-count/>, are easily accessible tools to assist local and state public policymakers and child advocates in identifying both needs and solutions. *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* data are used to brief legislators, inform policy, and are integral to informing child advocates.

The annual *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* documents the status of children in Missouri's 114 counties and the City of St. Louis. First produced in 1993, the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* remains an invaluable repository of comprehensive, longitudinal information on the status of children.

Sponsors



Partners

Thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their continued support of the KIDS COUNT in Missouri initiative. Primary funding for the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book* comes from the Children's Trust Fund.



Partnership for Children is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, multi-issue child advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of children and youth. PFC works with partners throughout Missouri to make long-term systemic change by advocating for public policies and practices that help all young people realize their full potential.



The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through grant distribution, education, and awareness. CTF was created by the Missouri General Assembly in 1983 and is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Missouri Senate. For more information, visit www.ctf4kids.org.



Established in 1980, the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis conducts public policy support research for communities, agencies and other partners in Missouri. OSEDa strives to transform data into useful information. We believe the construction of meaningful information is an inherently collaborative enterprise.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropic source for disadvantaged children. The Casey Foundation supports a network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that shapes a new direction for American's children.

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book* was produced by Partnership for Children, Children's Trust Fund, and the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis. Permission to copy, disseminate, or otherwise use information from this report is granted as long as appropriate acknowledgement is given. This report, the full data set, and corresponding interactive data tools are available at www.osedamissouri.edu/kidscount.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2011 KIDS COUNT in Missouri Advisory Committee

Ryan Barker, Missouri Foundation for Health
Page Bellamy, Office of the Attorney General
Amy Blouin, Missouri Budget Project
Marjorie Cole, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Nancy Corley, Alliance of S.W. Missouri, Joplin
Paula Cunningham, Children's Trust Fund
Cheryle Dyle-Palmer, Parents As Teachers National Center
Lou Edwards, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
Tracy Greever-Rice, Office of Social Economic Data Analysis
Melissa Haile, Office of Social Economic Data Analysis
Debby Howland, Kansas City Child Abuse Roundtable Coalition
Anita Jolly, St. Joseph Community Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention
Mary Kettlewell, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
Ina Linville, 4H University Extension
Jerry Lonergan, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City
Cathi Martarella, Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies
Wayne Mayfield, Office of Social Economic Data Analysis
Vivian Murphy, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
Joy Oesterly, Missouri KidsFirst/Prevent Child Abuse Missouri Chapter
Rich Patton, Vision for Children At Risk, St. Louis
Monty Platz, Office of the Attorney General
Steve Renne, Missouri Hospital Association
Kirk Schreiber, Children's Trust Fund
Carmen Schulze, Great Circle
Carol Scott, Child Care Aware of Missouri
Kristi Scoville, Missouri Department of Mental Health
Anne Silea, Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri
Kathy Thornburg, Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

Charron Townsend, Partnership for Children
Elaine West, Missouri Association for Community Action
Clive Woodward, Missouri Department of Mental Health

Data Collection

Jackie Allen, Missouri Department of Mental Health
Bryan Angell, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Eric Bempah, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis
Andrew Bond, Missouri Department of Social Services
Margaret Buckland, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Leigh Ann Grant-Engle, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Matt Hesser, Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning
Keith Jamtgaard, Office of Social Economic Data Analysis
Bill Niblick, Missouri Department of Economic Development
Tina Senter, Office of State Courts
Pamela Speer, Missouri Accreditation
Linda Surface, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Craig Ward, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Lori Williams, Childcare Aware of Missouri

2011 Data Book Research and Analysis

John Blodgett, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis
Tracy Greever-Rice, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis
Wayne Mayfield, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis

Design and Layout

Diana Hammond, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis

about **PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN**



Partnership for Children (PFC) was founded in 1991 as a joint initiative of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Heart of America United Way.

For the past 19 years, PFC has collabor-

ated with local and statewide partners to advocate for public policies and practices in the areas of health, early care & education, K-12 education, and child safety.

PFC's advocacy efforts include researching and analyzing critical issues, collecting data and producing reports, identifying gaps and ensuring they are addressed, and mobilizing public support for specific initiatives and interventions.

PFC also collaborates with local and statewide groups to conduct legislative advocacy on behalf of children. Specifically, PFC:

- Works with partners to establish legislative priorities and develop action plans;
- Develops materials to educate legislators and other advocates about priority issues;
- Tracks hearings, votes and amendments on House and Senate bills that benefit children;
- Testifies before committees, where appropriate, and enlists testimony of others to support priority areas;
- Produces weekly legislative alerts (Capitol Child Advocate) to keep legislators and the community abreast of policies and legislation affecting children; and
- Conducts workshops on "Understanding and Impacting the Legislative Process" to develop a more informed and engaged coalition of child advocates.

Because PFC is recognized as one of the state's leading voices for children in Jefferson City, the organization was chosen by The Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2010 to be Missouri's new *KIDS COUNT* grantee. In this role, PFC uses the *KIDS COUNT* measurements of social, economic, educational, and physical well-being to inform policymakers and the public about the needs of Missouri's children and to spur action.

PFC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, multi-issue child advocacy organization and is a proud member of Voices for America's Children.

The #1 Question

In 1997, PFC introduced the #1 Question in an attempt to get every individual, organization and lawmaker to use the question — **"Is it good for the children?"** — as a litmus test for all decisions.



Whether it's a parent making plans for a Saturday night, a business considering whether to provide child care for employees, or a legislator deciding what funding to cut, almost every decision we make in our lives affects children in some way.

The #1 Question reminds us to *always* consider how the decisions we make will affect our children and youth. Our goal is to see the needs of young people at the top of Missouri's list of priorities.

Granted, the notion of every citizen using the #1 Question in all decision-making is ambitious. But just imagine what life would be like for our children and youth if their needs were considered before all others. By building a state where our children come first in all personal, business, and public policy decisions, we have a great opportunity to ensure all our young people grow up healthy, safe, and well-prepared to succeed in life.

All this can be accomplished by asking one simple question — **"Is it good for the children?"**

The #1 Question is a registered trademark of Partnership for Children. It cannot be used without consent of PFC.

The Child Action Network

Sign up for the Child Action Network (CAN) to keep informed about what's happening at the State Capitol, upcoming events, and easy ways to get involved in child advocacy in Missouri. Visit our website at pfc.org to receive the CAN periodic e-updates and newsletters.

Partnership for Children Board of Directors

Debby Ballard (Board Vice-Chair)
Director of Community Affairs
Sprint

Irene Caudillo (Board Secretary)
Kansas Director of Clinic Operations
Swope Health Wyandotte

Michael Chesser (Board Chair)
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Great Plains Energy

John Derry
Senior Vice President, Human Resources
Kansas City Southern

Greg Euston
Vice President
J.E. Dunn Construction

Bernard Franklin
Education Consultant

Rick Halil
Vice President
Burns & McDonnell

Trudie Hall
Special Projects Coordinator
Federal Reserve Bank

Judy Hunt
Community Volunteer

Jerry Lonergan
Associate Director
The Civic Council of Greater Kansas
City

Patrick Meyers
Executive Senior Vice President
Lockton Companies, LLC

William Tempel (Board Treasurer)
Former Chairman (Retired)
UMB Bank Kansas

Partnership for Children Staff

Charron Townsend, President

Erin Brower, Director of Advocacy and
Public Policy

Laura Lyon Melo, Administration and
Communications Manager

Cary Seem, Business Manager

Introduction

Executive Summary.....	6
Missouri Profile.....	8
Missouri Minority Profile.....	9
County Ranks at a Glance.....	10

Outcome Measures

Economic Security	13
Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch Program	14
Births to Mothers without a High School Diploma	14
Endnotes.....	18
Child Health and Mental Health Status	21
Low Birth Weight Infants	22
Infant Mortality.....	23
Endnotes.....	26
Child Protection and Safety	29
Child Deaths, Ages 1-14	30
Child Abuse and Neglect.....	31
Out-of-Home Placement Entries	32
Violent Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19	34
Endnotes.....	34
Educational Success	37
Annual High School Dropouts	39
Births to Teens, Ages 15-19	40
Endnotes.....	43

County Profiles

Understanding Your County's Data	46
County Profile Pages	48

Data Notes and Sources	165
-------------------------------------	-----



TABLE OF *contents*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book* provides information on measures of child well-being for the state, its 114 counties, and St. Louis City. By highlighting data trends across time and geographic areas, this book gives local and state policymakers, as well as other child advocates, the crucial information they need to make informed decisions regarding how best to support the well-being of children across the state.

According to Census 2010 data, there are more than 1.4 million children living in Missouri. One in five of these children are of an ethnic/racial minority, including African American, Asian, Native American, and children of one or more race/ethnicities. Although still a relatively small part of the overall child population, Hispanic children now make up 3%, a proportion almost double what it was in 1990.

To track changes over time, *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* provides the most currently available data (2010) as well as data from 2006 (the base year). (Please note that the exact dates for which data are provided differ slightly between indicators and outcomes). Between the base and current years, two *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* outcome measures worsened, seven improved, and one remain unchanged. Measures that improved are: high school drop outs, infant mortality, child deaths, teen violent deaths, child abuse and neglect family assessments, births to mothers without a high school diploma, and births to teens. The two measures that worsened were the number of out-of-home placement treatment entries and students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, which increased 10% and 15%, respectively, between the base and current years. One measure, the percent of low birth-weight infants, remained the same.

It is essential to keep in mind the larger national context and how it has potentially affected the outcomes tracked in *KIDS COUNT in Missouri*. Between 2006 and 2010, Missouri, like the rest of the United States, experienced an economic downturn on a scale unprecedented since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The “Great Recession” has increased the number of children and families facing deep economic insecurity, as evidenced by increases in measures of poverty. Although the long-term effects of the “Great Recession” are not completely clear, we do know that more families and children are in poverty—and that poverty has a negative impact on children’s potential for success in school and later in life.

Because the *KIDS COUNT* project, both in Missouri and nationwide, strives to provide both the most current and most local data available to describe the status of children, some indicators are based on administrative data collected through state agencies to deliver existing services and programs. In the past few years, state budgets,

and subsequently the programs they fund, have diminished. It is incumbent upon users of the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* to distinguish between changes in rates or numbers of this year’s *KIDS COUNT* data that indicate an authentic improvement in the quality of children’s lives versus changes that reflect scaled-back services and resources.

MEASURES OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Students enrolled in free or reduced-price lunch program, a proxy measure of child poverty, increased throughout the decade. In 2000, more than one-third of Missouri’s students lived in families whose incomes were low enough to qualify for this program, and by the end of the decade the proportion of children had risen to nearly half (46.8%). Children living in or close to poverty are at higher risk than other children for health, educational, and social problems.

In 2010, 17% of Missouri births were to a *mother without a high school diploma*, denoting less than 12 years of education. During the decade between 2000 and 2009, this rate has been trending downwards from nearly 20% in the early years of the decade to the current rate of 17.2%. Children who are born to undereducated parents face the highest odds of living in chronic poverty.

While the number of *children receiving cash assistance* has incrementally decreased from 6.4% in 2000 to 4.8% in 2010, a substantial portion of the decrease is an intended effect of a policy shift in the cash assistance program for families with children that limits lifetime benefits to 60 months. We know that many of these children continue to live in poverty. However, their parents have replaced cash assistance benefits with low-paying employment and a constellation of non-cash support programs. *Food stamp utilization* has risen sharply in the past decade from serving 22% of Missouri’s children in 2000 to 37.4% in 2010. At the same time, the number of persons securing food from food pantries increased.

Consistent with administrative record indicators such as the Food Stamp program and Free/Reduced School Lunch program, data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey estimates that the percent of Missouri children living in poverty has increased from approximately 15% in 2005 to 20.2% in 2009. From 2006 to 2010, *adult unemployment* has doubled, from 4.8% to 9.6%. Nearly one in four (24.5%) Missouri *children under 6* were living in poverty in 2009.

MEASURES OF CHILD HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

The percent of *low birthweight infants* has remained stable at 8.1 for the past several years after a slight mid-decade increase. For the 5-year period (2006-2010) reported in *KIDS COUNT*, on average nearly 6,500 infants are born per year weighing less than five pounds.

In contrast, the *infant mortality* rate has declined steadily over the last 10 years. This is due to a combination of improved medical technology and public health outreach efforts. Despite these improvements, during the years 2006 through 2010, nearly 3,000 Missouri babies died before their first birthdays.

The number of *children enrolled in Medicaid* increased between 2006 and 2010 from 32.9% to 36.9%, which reflects the worsening economic conditions.

MEASURES OF CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY

The *child death* rate has improved steadily and incrementally since the beginning of the decade. Despite these positive gains, on average, approximately 218 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Missouri between 2006 and 2010. *Violent deaths of teens* decreased between the periods 2001-2005 and 2006-2010 from a 5-year total of 1,335 to 1,291 respectively. Accidents, including automobile accidents, are responsible for 33% of deaths of children between ages 1 and 14 and 53% of deaths of teenagers between 15 and 19.

The *child abuse and neglect* indicator measures the number of child abuse victims from reports classified as “probable cause,” indicating that child abuse or neglect has occurred. This indicator also measures the number of child abuse victims as defined by the outcome of Department of Social Services family assessments. The indicator is expressed as a rate per 1,000 children. In 2010, 45,441 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported in Missouri, or 31.9 cases per 1,000. The number and rate for 2010 are higher than last year’s data (42,706 cases, 29.8 per 1,000), but these figures have decreased since 2006 (46,376 cases, 32.6 per 1,000).

Out-of-home placement entries are used in *KIDS COUNT* to measure the status of children who are confirmed victims of neglect, and who are living in environments posing immediate risk or environments not responding immediately to intervention to prevent further physical or emotional threat or injury to children. The indicator

is expressed as a rate per 1,000 children. The rate of *out-of-home placement* entries has increased from 4.1 to 4.4 during the five year period analyzed in this report.

MEASURES OF EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

The *high school dropout* rate decreased over 10% from 2006 and 2010. Despite progress on this outcome, nearly 9,000 students dropped out of public high schools in the 2009/2010 school year, increasing their risks of economic insecurity and other negative outcomes

Missouri’s *teen birth* rate declined over 19% from 2006 to 2010 to 36.9 births to 1,000 teens—the lowest rate since 2000. In 2000, about 9,800 Missouri teens, ages 15 - 19, gave birth. In 2010, approximately 7,600 teens gave birth. Although the number of teens giving birth annually has fallen, it still means that there are thousands of teen mothers and their children who are at risk for poverty, unemployment/underemployment, and health problems.

MISSOURI STATE PROFILE

Capital - Jefferson City

Missouri Trends

✗ = Worse

✓ = Better

○ = No Change

NOTE: Free and reduced lunch and high school dropout data may not match data displayed on the website of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). While DESE posts data as it appears in the database on a given date, data published in KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book may reflect subsequent revisions by school districts.

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	State Rank
	Base Year	Current Year	Base Year	Current Year		
Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch 2006/2010	365,838	407,152	40.7	46.8	✗	n/a
Births to mothers without h.s. diploma 2006/2010	15,279	13,094	18.8	17.2	✓	n/a
Low birth weight infants 2001-2005/2006-2010	30,818	32,311	8	8.1	✗	22
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) 2001-2005/2006-2010	2,969	2,855	7.7	7.1	✓	32
Child deaths, ages 1-14 (per 100,000) 2001-2005/2006-2010	1,276	1,093	22.8	18.5	✓	31
Child abuse and neglect (per 1,000) 2006/2010	46,376	45,441	32.4	31.9	✓	n/a
Out-of-home placement entries (per 1,000) 2006/2010	5,797	6,236	4	4.4	✗	n/a
Annual high school dropouts 2006/2010	10,788	9,722	3.9	3.5	✓	27
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000) 2006/2010	9,179	7,625	44.8	36.9	✓	31
Violent deaths, ages 15-19 (per 100,000) 2001-2005/2006-2010	1,335	1,291	64.7	61.2	✓	44
* Update: An unduplicated count of children receiving treatment through the Missouri Department of Mental Health						

DEMOGRAPHIC

Child population	2006	1,432,228
	2010	1,425,436
Children as percent of total population	2006	24.5
	2010	23.8
Minority children	2006	22.2
	2010	25.5
Children with limited English proficiency	2006	19.092
	2010	19.986

ECONOMIC

Children in poverty	2000	15.3
	2009	20.2
Children under 6 in poverty	2000	17.7
	2009	24.5
Children in single parent families	2000	24.3
	2009	32.6
Average annual wage/salary	2006	\$37,851
	2009	\$41,040
Adult unemployment	2006	4.8
	2010	9.6

FAMILY SUPPORTS

Parents paying child support in state system	2006	53
	2010	57.1
Children receiving subsidized child care	2006	41,295
	2010	46,795
Licensed child care capacity	2006	144,628
	2011	152,750
Accredited child care facilities	2006	613
	2011	531
Children receiving cash assistance	2006	4.9
	2010	4.8
Children receiving food stamps	2006	30.5
	2010	37.4

HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH

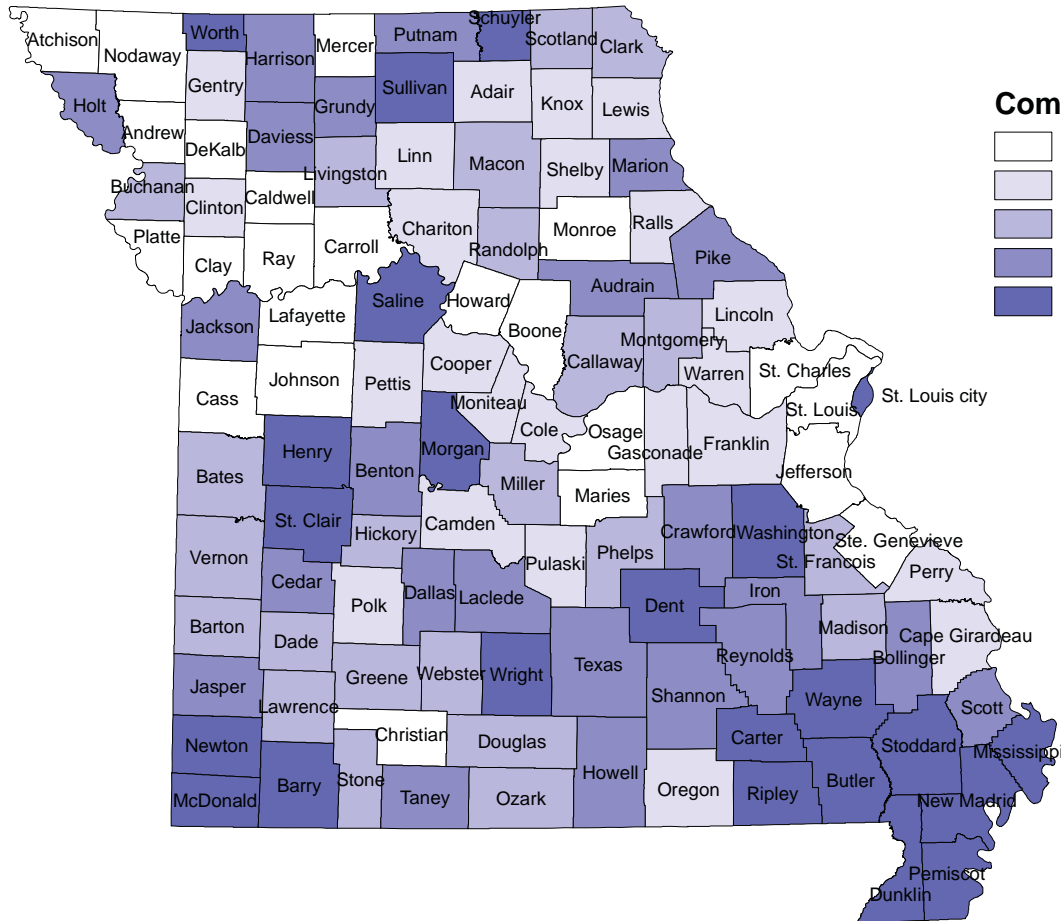
Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids	2006	32.9
	2010	36.9
Children with elevated blood lead levels	2006	2.2
	2010	1
Children receiving public SED mental health services*	2008	18,116
	2010	22,328
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2006	58
	2009	51.3

MISSOURI PROFILE minority

	Years	Caucasian			Minority		
		Base	Current	Trend	Base	Current	Trend
Births to mothers without high school diploma	2006/2010	17.6%	15.0%	√	23.8%	24.7%	X
Low birth weight infants	2001-2005 and 2006/2010	7.1%	7.1%	O	12.7%	12.0%	√
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	2001-2005 and 2006/2010	6.4	5.9	√	13.8	12.2	√
Child deaths, ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2001-2005 and 2006/2010	23.1	18.4	√	26.2	22.9	√
Child abuse and neglect (per 1,000)	2006/2010	33.4	26.1	√	29.0	25.1	√
Out-of-home placements (per 1,000)	2006/2010	3.7	4.2	X	5.6	4.3	√
Annual high school dropouts	2006/2010	3.3%	2.2%	√	5.4%	7.5%	X
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	2006/2010	41.3	31.6	√	61.3	56.8	√
Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19 (per 100,000)	2001-2005 and 2006/2010	63.3	59.5	√	73.5	85.0	X

COUNTY RANKS at a glance

Missouri Kids Count, 2011 Composite County Rankings



St. Charles	1	Livingston	58
Platte	2	Buchanan	59
Osage	3	Ozark	60
Nodaway	4	Hickory	61
Christian	5	Bates	62
Clay	6	Webster	63
Boone	7	Clark	64
Monroe	8	Randolph	65
Andrew	9	Lawrence	66
Cass	10	Miller	67
Mercer	11	Vernon	68
Howard	12	Montgomery	69
Johnson	13	Shannon	70
Ste. Genevieve	14	Daviess	71
Ray	15	Benton	72
Carroll	16	Marion	73
DeKalb	17	Audrain	74
Atchison	18	Harrison	75
St. Louis	19	Howell	76
Jefferson	20	Texas	77
Caldwell	21	Pike	78
Lafayette	22	Bollinger	79
Maries	23	Holt	80
Lewis	24	Scott	81
Pulaski	25	Crawford	82
Perry	26	Cedar	83
Lincoln	27	Grundy	84
Knox	28	Putnam	85
Clinton	29	Jackson	86
Adair	30	Jasper	87
Linn	31	Taney	88
Franklin	32	Dallas	89
Gentry	33	Reynolds	90
Polk	34	Laclede	91
Gasconade	35	Iron	92
Warren	36	Dent	93
Shelby	37	Barry	94
Cape Girardeau	38	Saline	95
Moniteau	39	Schuyler	96
Chariton	40	Wright	97
Cole	41	St. Clair	98
Oregon	42	Newton	99
Ralls	43	Butler	100
Camden	44	Morgan	101
Pettis	45	Worth	102
Cooper	46	Carter	103
Stone	47	New Madrid	104
Barton	48	Washington	105
Greene	49	Sullivan	106
Phelps	50	Henry	107
Scotland	51	McDonald	108
Callaway	52	Stoddard	109
Macon	53	Mississippi	110
Madison	54	Wayne	111
Dade	55	Dunklin	112
Douglas	56	Pemiscot	113
St. Francois	57	Ripley	114
		City of St. Louis	115

Source: Missouri KidsCount, 2011

Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)

Map Created On: 28 Nov 2011





PERSPECTIVE:
economic security

PERSPECTIVE: economic security

A family's economic security has a great impact on a child's ability to develop into a healthy, productive adult. *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* tracks many indicators related to economic conditions for Missouri's children and families, including parental education and employment statistics, enrollment in federal assistance programs, and the child poverty rate, in order to provide a full picture of how our children are faring. It is important to keep in mind that since no single outcome or indicator represents how well children and families are faring economically, all of the indicators included in this section should be examined closely.

The child poverty rate is one of the most scrutinized indicators of child and family well-being. National child poverty levels fell by 30% between 1994 and 2000, the largest decrease since the 1960s.¹

However, during most of the first decade of the 21st century, state and national poverty rate improvements stalled. The significant economic downturn that began in 2007 adversely affected economic conditions at both state and national levels. The national child poverty rate increased by 7.4% between 2007 and 2009, which translates to 2 million additional children living in poverty.² In Missouri, the rate of increase between 2007 and 2009 was 10.4%, indicating that our state has experienced greater threats to

economic security than many states.

KIDS COUNT tracks two outcomes directly related to children's economic security:

- Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch price program
- Births to mothers without high school diplomas

In addition, eight other economic security indicators are reported:

- Children in poverty
- Children under 6 in poverty
- Children in single parent families
- Average annual wage/salary
- Adult unemployment
- Parents paying child support in the state system
- Children receiving cash assistance
- Children receiving food stamps

For the most part, the economic security outlook for the children and families in Missouri has been in decline. Since 2006, the percent of students enrolled in the free/reduced price lunch program has increased by 15%; in 2010, nearly half of Missouri's children qualified for free/reduced lunch. The percentage of children

receiving food stamps has increased 22.6% over the same time period. Since 2000, the percent of children in poverty has increased 32%; the percent of children under 6 in poverty has burgeoned by 38.4%; and the percentage of children in single parent families has gone up over 34%. Not all trends related to economic security are in decline, however; since 2006 progress has been made on the percentage of births to mothers without a high school diploma (a decrease of 8.6%) and the percentage of parents paying child support in the state system (an increase of 7.7%).

Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percent of children enrolled in the free or reduced price lunch program in Missouri public schools.

Significance

Participation in the free/reduced lunch program is a widely used proxy for measuring the extent of child poverty. Economic hardship can have profound negative effects on children's health and development. Children from families with low incomes have a higher risk for cognitive development and learning problems.

Missouri Findings

For the 2010-11 school year, nearly half of Missouri public school students (46.8%) were enrolled in the free/reduced price lunch program, a 3.2 percentage point increase from the previous school year. The percentage has been trending steadily upward over time. In 2001-02, 36.9% of children were enrolled in the program; in 2005-06, 41.7% were enrolled.

County Findings

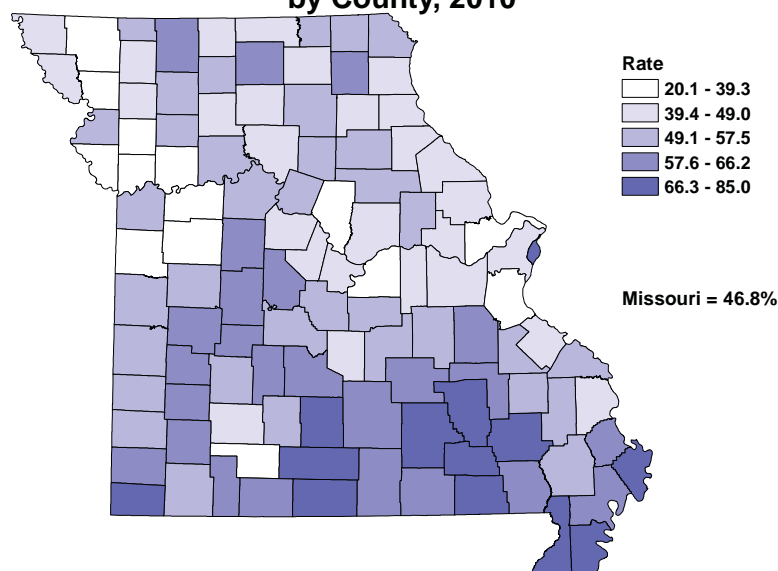
The counties with the highest participation rates in 2010-11, which suggests high levels of child poverty, were primarily found in the southern parts of the state. The counties with the highest rates were St. Louis City, (85%), Shannon (79.9%), Pemiscot (72.4%), Ripley (71.6%), Wayne (70.1%), and Dunklin (70%). The counties with the lowest rate, all below 37%, were St. Charles, Platte, Osage, Clay, Andrew, Cass, Ray, Jefferson, and Clinton.

Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas

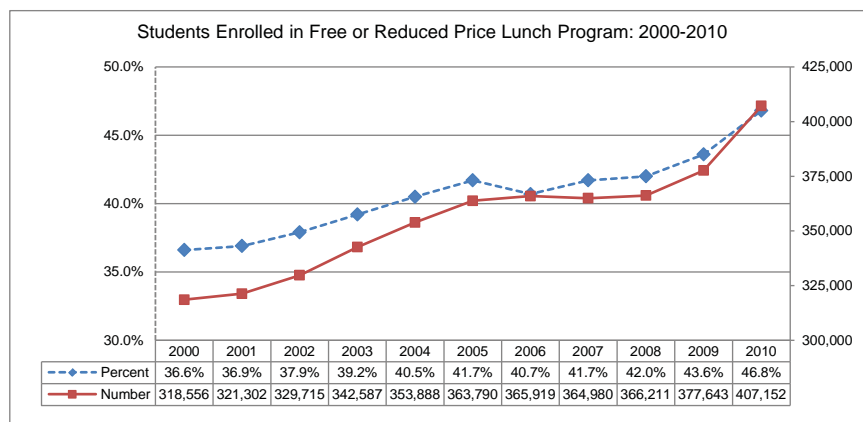
Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number and percentage of all births to mothers who indicated that they have less than 12

Percent Students Enrolled for Free and Reduced Lunches by County, 2010



Source: Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDAA)
Map Created On: 17 Nov 2011



years of education on their child's birth certificate.

Significance

Children born to mothers with fewer than 12 years of education face the highest odds of living in chronic and/or severe poverty. Parents with low education levels typically have lower incomes than those with more education. Higher levels of parental education are strongly associated with positive outcomes for children, including better school readiness and academic achievement, lower rates of smoking and drinking, and higher rates of volunteering.³

Missouri Findings

In 2010, 17.2% of births were to women without a high school diploma. This percentage increased slightly (.1 percentage points) from 2009, although the trend for rates over time is clearly downward. In 2010, there were 13,094 live births to women without a high school diploma; 32.3% were to minority mothers, and 67.7% were to nonminority mothers.

County Findings

In eight counties—Holt, Nodaway, St. Charles, Osage, Platte, Howard, Pularski, and Andrew—fewer than 10% of children were born to mothers without a high school diploma in 2010. In 10

counties, one-third or more of births were to mothers with less than 12 years of education: Scotland, McDonald, Morgan, Dunklin, Barry, Daviess, Webster, Pemiscot, Schuyler, and Grundy. In absolute numbers, Jackson County, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County accounted for 34% of births to mothers without a high school diploma.

Children in Poverty

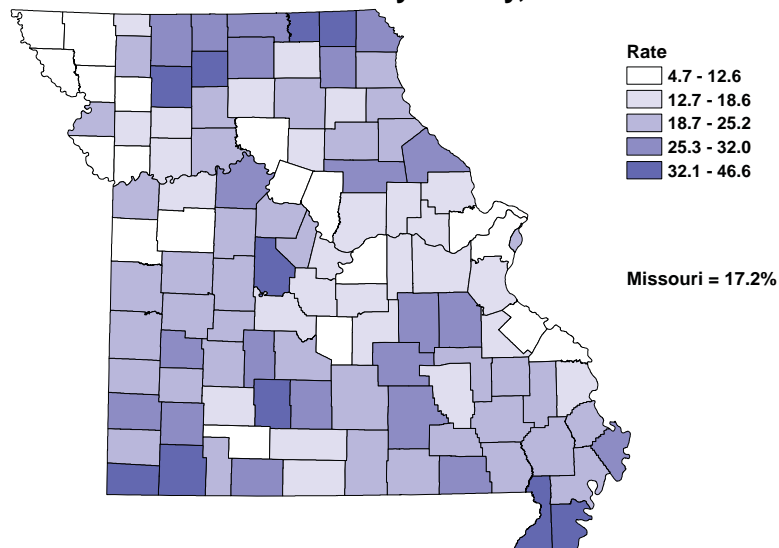
Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percentage of children (under age 18) that live in families with income below the federal poverty threshold. The federal poverty threshold depends on the number of adults and children in a family. For a single parent (under 65) with two children, the federal poverty threshold in 2009 was \$18,310.

Significance

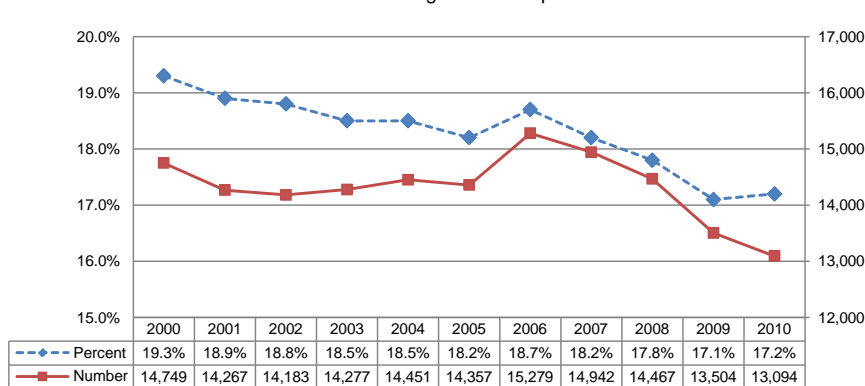
Nationally, one in five children (21%) lives in families with incomes below the poverty threshold.⁴ However, most families need an income of at least double the poverty threshold to meet their basic needs; families below this level are considered low-income. In the U.S., the percentage of children living in low-income families is 44%.⁵

Percent of Births to Mothers with Fewer Than 12 Years Education by County, 2010



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDa)
Map Created On: 17 Nov 2011

Births to Mothers Without High School Diplomas: 2000-2010



Missouri Findings

In 2009, 20.2% of Missouri children lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. This figure has been steadily increasing over time. In 2000, 15.3% of children were in poverty; in 2007, 18.3% were. In Missouri's largest cities, the percent of children living in poverty is particularly high: 44.1% in Springfield, 41.8% in St. Louis City, and 29.3 % in Kansas City.⁶

County Findings

In 2009, 13 counties had more than 35% of children living in poverty: Pemiscot, Carter, Hickory, Shannon, St. Louis City, Iron, Vernon, Dunklin, Stone, Wayne, Ozark, Washington, and Polk. The counties with the lowest percentage of children living in poverty—all below 12%—were St. Charles, Lafayette, Platte, Osage, Callaway, Clay, Cass, and Ray.

Children under 6 in Poverty

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percentage of children under age 6 living in poverty, based on the federal poverty thresholds. The federal poverty threshold depends on the number of adults and children in a family.

Significance

Very young children are more likely to live in poverty than older children. Thus, the percentage of children under 6 in poverty is higher than that of all children in poverty. Many factors contribute to increased likelihood of children experiencing poverty at a young age, including the relative youth of parents (which depresses earning potential), as well as the need for child care (either parents pay for it or stay at home to take care of young children). Poverty can interfere with children's development for all ages, but its developmental effects are more pervasive for children who experience economic hardship when very young.

Missouri Findings

In 2009, the percentage of children under 6 living in poverty was 24.5. This figure has been trending upward, from 17.7% in 2000 to 22% in 2007.

County Findings

In 2009, three counties had more than 50% of children under 6 living in poverty: Pemiscot, Texas, and Iron. Another eight counties had more than 45% of children under 6 living in poverty: Ozark, Dunklin, Vernon, New Madrid, Hickory, Wayne, Shannon, and Reynolds. Seven counties had less than 14% of children under six in poverty: St.

Charles, Mercer, Clay, Perry, Callaway, Lafayette, and Clinton.

Children in Single-Parent Families

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percent of children who live in single-parent homes.

Significance

In 2009, nearly 24 million children lived in single-parent families across the nation.⁷ The relationship between poverty and family structure is shown by the fact that more children living in single-parent families were in poverty (34%) compared to children living in married-couple families (8%).⁸

Family structure can have an effect on children's outcomes. Because two-parent families tend to have higher household incomes and more assets than single-parent families, the quality of children's home, as well as out-of-home, experiences may be reduced in single-parent families.⁹ In addition, economic hardship may increase parents' psychological distress and decrease sensitive caregiving.¹⁰ These factors can lead to negative effects on children's cognitive and social development and impact their long-term

academic achievement.¹¹

Missouri Findings

In 2009, nearly one third of Missouri children—32.6%—lived in single-parent families. This percentage has increased over time. In 2000, 24.3% of children lived in single-parent families; in 2007, the figure was 31.2%.

County Findings

In three counties, more than 50% of children lived in single-parent families in 2009: St. Louis City (64.8%), Pemiscot (57.2%), and Mississippi (53.7%). Another five counties had more than 40% of children living with single-parents: Dunklin, Stone, New Madrid, Jackson, and Randolph. The counties with the lowest percentage of children living in single-parent families (less than 20%) were Scotland, Schuyler, Daviess, Chariton, Ralls, Knox, St. Charles, Nodaway, and Perry.

Average Annual Wage/Salary

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the average annual wage/salary in Missouri per job.

Significance

This indicator is another way of measuring economic conditions for chil-

dren and families over time.

Missouri Findings

In 2009, the average annual wage/salary for Missourians was \$41,040. This indicator has increased steadily over time. In 2006, the average annual wage/salary was \$37,851.

County Findings

Eight counties had average annual wage/salary higher than \$40,000 in 2009: St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jackson, Iron, Clay, Pulaski, Mercer, and Platte. The counties with the lowest average annual wage/salary in 2009, all below \$25,000, were Worth, Ozark, Shannon, Clark, Carter, Hickory, Harrison, and Ripley.

Adult Unemployment

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the annual unemployment rate (percentage of civilian labor force that is unemployed and looking for work).

Significance

Unemployment rates provide another picture of the general economic conditions of a state, region, or county. As more adults have problems finding em-

ployment, the number of children and families in poverty increases. Higher unemployment rates are also associated with families using more government services, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as the food stamp program) to help make ends meet.

Missouri Findings

The recent recession has had a significant impact on unemployment rates throughout Missouri. In 2006, the state unemployment rate was 4.8%. In 2008, it rose slightly to 6.1%. For 2010, Missouri's unemployment rate jumped to 9.6%, double what it was in 2006.

County Findings

In 2010, six counties had unemployment rates below 7%: Boone, Nodaway, Perry, Knox, Cole, and Osage. (Except for Osage, all of these counties had unemployment rates below 4% in 2006). Forty-three counties (over 37% of Missouri's counties) had unemployment rates of at least 10%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates in 2010 (all greater than 12%) were Washington, Shannon, Reynolds, Monroe, Morgan, Taney, Hickory, Miller, Stone, and St. Louis City.

Parents Paying Child Support in the State System

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percent of parents meeting their child support payment responsibilities in the state system.

Significance

This indicator is another determinant of economic well-being for children. Child support helps decrease economic hardship in single-parent families.

Missouri Findings

In 2010, the percent of parents meeting their child support payment responsibilities in the state system was 57.1%. This indicator has been steadily increasing: it was 53% in 2006 and 56.5% in 2008.

County Findings

In 2010, the counties with the lowest percent of parents meeting their child support payments were Cole, Maries, McDonald, St. Louis City, Butler, Dunklin, and Pemiscot. The counties with the highest percentage were Marion, Knox, Atchison, Carter, Chariton Dade, and Clark.

Children Receiving Cash Assistance

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percentage of children receiving cash assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF).

Significance

This indicator is another way of examining the economic well-being of children and families. However, changes in this indicator over time must be considered in the context of policy changes at the state and federal levels, which can artificially impact the direction of the trend.

Missouri Findings

In 2010, 4.8% of children were in families receiving cash assistance, a slight increase over the 2009 figure of 4.7%. The rate has remained surprisingly stable since 2006, when it was 4.9%, despite the economic downturn. Because other indices of poverty have increased during the downturn, these stable figures suggest that there are other barriers to accessing this service besides eligibility.

County Findings

The counties with the highest percent of children receiving cash assistance in 2010 (all over 10%) were St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Dunklin, and Mississippi.

The counties with the lowest percent of children receiving TANF (all below 2%) were St. Charles, Osage, Worth, Knox, Platte, and Scotland.

Children Receiving Food Stamps

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percentage of children receiving food stamps under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Significance

SNAP provides low-income families with electronic benefits that they can use like cash at most grocery stores. Participation in SNAP is an indicator of economic security as well as child nutrition.

Missouri Findings

In 2010, nearly two in five children (37.4%) received food stamps, an increase of 1.9 percentage points over the 2009 figure of 35.5%. This figure has climbed from the 2006 rate of 30.5%. These increases show the impact of the recent recession on Missouri's children and families.

County Findings

In 21 counties, at least 50% of the children received food stamps in 2010. In 2006, only nine counties surpassed

the 50% benchmark, another indication of the recent economic downturn. The counties with the highest percentage of children receiving food stamps in 2010 (all at or higher than 60%) were St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Mississippi, Ripley, Washington, and Douglas. The counties with the lowest percentage of children in the SNAP program (all at or below 20%) in 2010 were St. Charles, Platte, Nodaway, and Osage.

.....
¹The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). *2010 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved February 11, 2012, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2010/OnlineBooks/2010DataBook.pdf>

²The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). *2011 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf

³National Center for Children in Poverty. (2009). *Ten important questions about child poverty and family economic hardship*. Retrieved February 15, 2012, from http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_829.html

⁴National Center for Children in Poverty. (2012). *Basic facts about low-income children. 2010: Children under age 18*.

Retrieved February 14, 2012, from http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_1049.html mica/birth.php

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Missouri Census Data Center. (n.d.). *American community survey profile report, 2010*.

⁷ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). *2011 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf

⁸ Missouri Census Data Center. (n.d.). *American community survey profile report, 2009*.

⁹ Votruba-Drzal, E. (2003). Income changes and cognitive stimulation in young children's home learning environments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 341–355.

¹⁰ Votruba-Drzal, E. (2006). Economic disparities in middle childhood development: Does income matter? *Developmental Psychology*, 42, 1154–1167.

¹¹ Ibid.





PERSPECTIVE:
*child health and
mental health*

PERSPECTIVE: child health and mental health

A healthy start in life provides children with the necessary foundation for healthy development and the capacity to learn. The determinants of a healthy start include quality prenatal care, consistent access to healthcare services throughout childhood and adolescence, including proper immunization, and good nutrition.

The majority of Missouri children access health coverage through private insurance and MO HealthNet for Kids, Missouri's public health insurance program for low-income children who do not have access to other health coverage. However, Missouri continues to maintain a population of children without healthcare coverage, including many who are eligible for coverage.

KIDS COUNT tracks two outcomes directly related to children's health and mental health:

- Low birth weight infants
- Infant mortality

In addition, three other health and mental health indicators are reported:

- Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids
- Children with elevated blood lead levels
- Children receiving public SED mental

health services

In comparison to the baseline years, the status of Missouri children's health and mental health with respect to these outcomes and indicators is mixed. Infant mortality, which has been declining for some time, decreased by 7.8% between the baseline time period 2001-2005 and the period 2006-2010. The rate of low birth weight infants remained nearly the same during these time periods. Changes in the other three indicators are more difficult to interpret. Because they reflect services provided by state government, the decreases over time may be due to actual progress on these indicators or may be due to budget shortfalls or changes in funding priorities. With this in mind, the percentage of children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids increased 12.2% between 2006 and 2010. The percent of young children with elevated blood lead levels has decreased by 54.5% from 2006 to 2010. From 2006 to 2010, the number of children who received public seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) mental health services decreased 27.9%.

Low Birth Weight Infants

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percent of

infants who weigh less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth. This figure includes term and pre-term infants. Data are combined across five-year periods to provide more stable rates. Infants born weighing less than 1,500 grams (three pounds, five ounces) are considered *very low birth weight*.

Significance

Infants born with low birth weights are at high risk for adverse outcomes and developmental problems throughout their lives. Compared to normal birth weight infants, they are more likely to have low oxygen levels at birth, problems maintaining body temperature, difficulties feeding and gaining weight, infections, breathing and respiratory problems, gastrointestinal problems, and intellectual and neurological impairments, including cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, and brain damage. It is also quite possible that infants born with a low birth weight may have a difficult time "catching up" in physical growth compared to normal birth weight peers. In general, the smaller the baby at birth, the higher his or her risk for complications.¹

There are two main reasons why a baby may be born with a low birth weight: premature birth and fetal growth restriction. Growth-restricted babies may be born full-term, but are underweight

because they did not grow well during pregnancy due to problems in the uterus, the mother's health, or birth defects. Premature birth occurs when a baby is born before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. About 67% of low birth weight babies are premature.²

Early induction of labor and c-sections account for about 25% of preterm births nationally.³ Often these cases are due to pregnancy complications or health problems affecting the mother or fetus.

Babies born with a low birth weight may have increased risk for certain chronic conditions in adulthood, including high blood pressure, adult-onset diabetes, and heart disease.⁴

Missouri Findings

The percent of low birth weight infants has been relatively stable over the past several years, ranging from 8% during the five-year period from 2001-2005 to 8.1% during the most recent period 2006-2010. Between 2006 and 2010, 32,309 low birth weight infants were born in Missouri.

In 2010, 76,324 live births occurred in Missouri; 6,289 infants (8.2%) were low birth weight. The low birth weight rate for minority infants was 11.7% in 2010, while the rate for nonminority infants was 7.2%.

County Findings

Between 2006 and 2010, the counties with the highest rates of low birth weight infants (all 10% or higher) were Pemis- cot, New Madrid, St. Louis City, Missis- sippi, Dunklin, Carter, Ripley, Monroe, Washington, and Butler. During the same time period, the counties with the lowest rates, all below 5.5%, were Scot- land, Gentry, Atchison, Maries, Andrew, Cedar, Worth, and Warren.

Infant Mortality

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of in- fants who die before their first birthday. The rate is expressed as deaths per 1,000 live births. The data are combined over five-year periods to provide more stable rates.

Significance

Infant mortality has long been an indica- tor of the health of a community, state, and nation because of its association with such factors as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socio- economic conditions, and public health practices. Nationally, the leading causes of infant death are congenital malforma- tions (physical defects present at birth), disorders related to short gestation or low birth weight, and sudden infant

death syndrome (SIDS).⁵

The U.S. infant mortality rate was 6.4 in 2009.⁶ However, this rate differs greatly by race and ethnicity. In 2006, the group with the highest rate was non-Hispanic black infants (13.4), followed by non- Hispanic white infants (5.6), Hispanic infants (5.4), and Asian/Pacific Islander infants (4.6).⁷

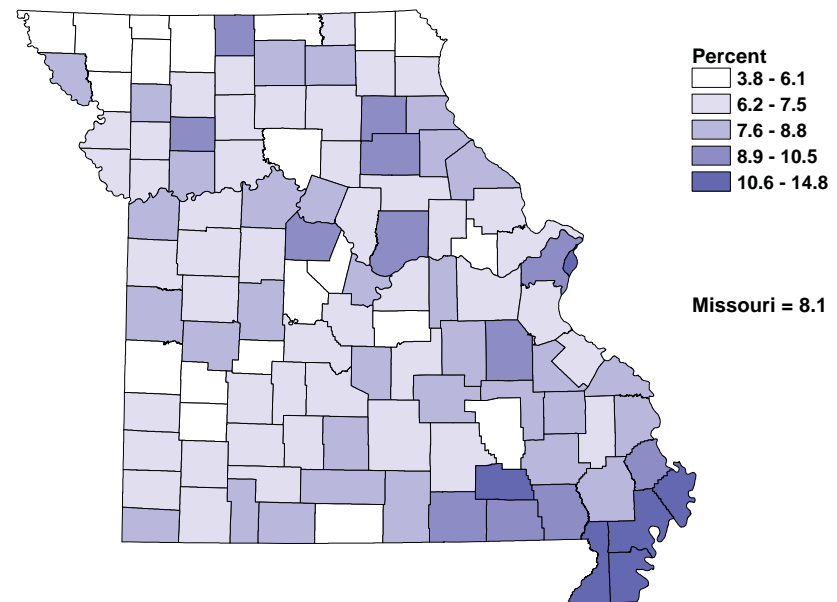
The infant mortality rate goes beyond health considerations to encompass eco- nomic and safety issues as well. Infants are more likely to die before their first birthday if they live in unsafe homes and neighborhoods or have inadequate nutri- tion, health care, or supervision.

Missouri Findings

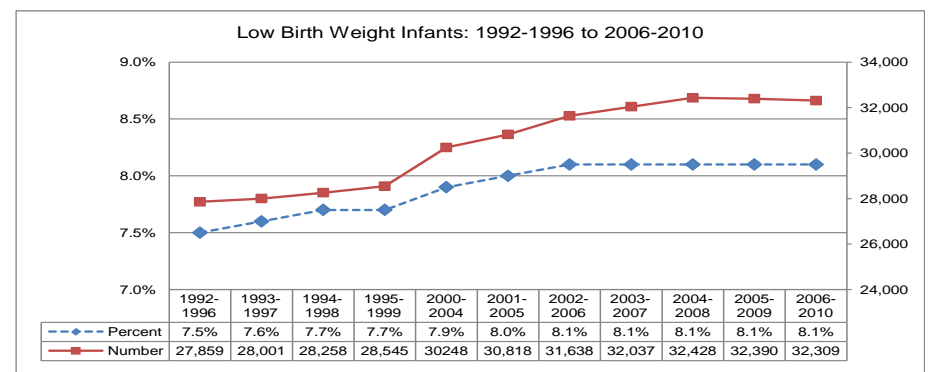
The infant mortality rate in Missouri has slowly and steadily decreased over the past five years from a rate of 7.7 deaths per 1,000 children younger than one year of age during 2001-2005 to 7.1 deaths per 1,000 children during the period 2006-2010.

In 2010, 498 infants under the age of one died in Missouri. Of these, 384 infant deaths were due to illness/natural causes (not including SIDS). Prematu- rity accounted for 46% of all illness/ natural cause deaths, whereas congenital anomalies accounted for 26% of illness/ natural cause deaths. Of the deaths due

Percent Low Birthweight Infants by County, 2006-2010



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)
Map Created On: 20 Nov 2011

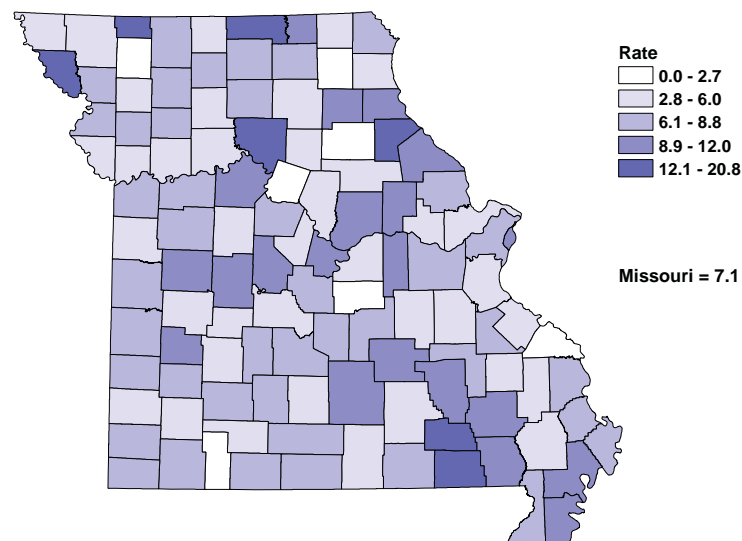


to illness/natural causes, 57% occurred within the first two days of life. In 2010, 118 sudden, unexpected infant deaths occurred in Missouri. Based on autopsy results, investigations, and evaluation by the Missouri Child Fatality Review Panel, 11 were diagnosed as SIDS, 61 were attributed to unintentional suffocation, 18 were classified as illness/natural causes, 8 as child abuse, and 20 were classified as undetermined.

County Findings

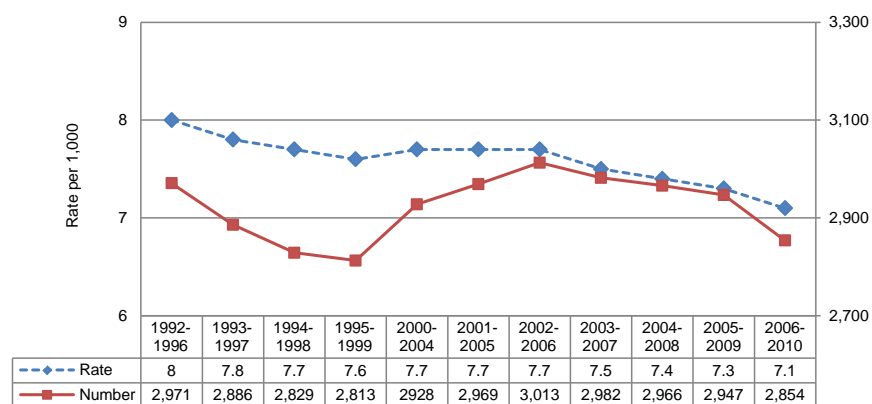
Gentry, Knox, and Maries counties had the lowest infant mortality rate between 2006 and 2010, with no infant deaths. The counties with the highest infant mortality rates during the same period were Worth, Putnam, Ripley, Carter, Ralls, Holt, and Chariton. These counties had rates of 13.4 or higher. However, because of the extremely low number of deaths in most counties, even over a five-year period, infant mortality rates should be interpreted with caution.

Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births by County, 2006-2010



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created On: 20 Nov 2011

Infant Mortality: 1992-1996 to 2006-2010



Children Enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the average monthly percentage of children under age 18 who have applied for and been certified as eligible for participation in MO HealthNet for Kids.

Significance

MO HealthNet is Missouri's health coverage program for citizens with low incomes. The program provides cover-

Additionally, uninsured children whose families' income is over the limits shown in the table, and whose monthly gross family income is under 150% of the federal poverty threshold, are also eligible.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) covers uninsured children with gross family incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty threshold. Children must be uninsured for six months before becoming eligible and cannot have family assets with a net worth over \$250,000. To be eligible, children in families with incomes over 150%

MO HealthNet for Kids Eligibility Information ⁸	
Covered Populations	Income Guidelines
Children (non-CHIP)	
Up to age 1	< 185% of federal poverty threshold
Ages 1 to 5	< 133% of federal poverty threshold
Ages 6 to 18	< 100% of federal poverty threshold
Children (CHIP)	< 300% of federal poverty threshold

age for eligible individuals who do not have access to private health care coverage, and generally covers eligible elderly and disabled individuals, low-income families, pregnant women, and children. MO HealthNet for Kids provides health care coverage for children under 18 years of age, regardless of insurance status, whose family income falls within certain guidelines.

of the federal poverty threshold cannot already have access to "affordable health insurance" as determined based on family size and income. Families must also pay monthly premiums based on family size and income. Premiums range from one to five percent of family income.

Disabled children, children in the care and custody of the Missouri Children's Division (including foster care and adoptive homes), and children in the custody

of the Division of Youth Services or a juvenile court are also covered by MO HealthNet. Newborns are automatically eligible for assistance if their mother is receiving a federally matched category of assistance at the time of birth.

Missouri Findings

In Missouri, 36.9% of children (approximately 525,000) were enrolled in MO HealthNet in 2010, an increase of 1.9% over 2009. This figure has been increasing since 2006, when the figure was 32.9 percent.

County Findings

In 2010, the counties with the highest percentage of children enrolled in MO HealthNet (all above 60%) were Douglas, St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Ripley, Mississippi, Dunklin, and Shannon. The counties with the lowest percentage in 2009, all below 24%, were St. Charles, Platte, Osage, Nodaway, Andrew, and Clay.

Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the percentage of children under the age of 6 whose blood contained 10 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter among those who were screened.

Significance

Approximately 250,000 U.S. children aged 1-5 years have blood lead levels greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood, the level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends public health actions be initiated.⁹ Lead poisoning can affect nearly every system in the body. Because lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized. The long-term consequences of lead poisoning include the following:

- Lower IQ levels
- Learning difficulties
- Attention deficits
- Behavioral problems
- Interference with growth
- Hearing problems.¹⁰

All children under the age of 6, and especially under the age of 3, are at risk because they are growing so rapidly and because they tend to put their hands or other objects, which may be contaminated with lead dust, into their mouths. However, children living at or below the poverty line who live in older housing are at greatest risk.

Lead-based paint and lead contaminated dust are the main sources of exposure

for lead in U.S. children. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978. All houses built before 1978 are likely to contain some lead-based paint. However, it is the deterioration of this paint that causes a problem. Approximately 24 million housing units have deteriorated leaded paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust. More than 4 million of these dwellings are homes to one or more young children.¹¹

Missouri Findings

According to 2010 Missouri blood lead testing data, 936 children under the age of six were identified with elevated blood lead levels in the state; or 1% of those who were screened. This percent has been on the decline; in 2006 it was 2.2%, with 1,894 children identified with high blood lead levels.

County Findings

In 2010, the counties with the highest percentage of children identified with elevated blood lead levels, all 3% or higher, were Buchanan, Gentry, Holt, Iron, and St. Louis City. Fifty-eight counties had a rate of 0% for elevated blood lead levels in children under 6 in 2010.

Children Receiving Public SED Mental Health Services

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of children receiving mental health services for serious emotional disorders (SED) through the Missouri Department of Mental Health. The Missouri Department of Mental Health defines SED as any emotional, behavioral, or mental disorder that requires multiple services; severely disrupts daily functioning in the home, school, or community; and has either been present for one year, or is expected to last a year or more.

Significance

Children and adolescents are susceptible to the same mental illnesses that afflict adults. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14.¹² Scientists are discovering that changes in the body and brain leading to mental illness may start much earlier, before any symptoms appear. Through greater understanding of when and how fast specific areas of children's brains develop, researchers are learning more about the early stages of a wide range of mental illnesses that appear later in life. Helping children and their parents manage difficulties early in life may prevent the development of disorders. Once mental illness develops, it becomes a regular part of a child's be-

havior and more difficult to treat. Even though we know how to treat—though not yet cure—many disorders, many children with mental illnesses are not getting treatment. Without treatment, these children will be at risk for falling behind in other domains of development, thereby decreasing the likelihood that they will become happy, stable, productive adults.

Young people are especially at risk of depression, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, phobias, and substance abuse. Behavior disorders are another form of mental illness that appears in childhood and adolescence. As many as one in five Missouri children may have a behavior disorder, ranging from barely noticeable to disruptive to their education, development, and family life.¹³

The causes of mental illness are varied, but most are caused by imbalances in the brain's chemistry, by a head injury, or by emotional trauma. Some mental illnesses are more prevalent in some families, suggesting a genetic link.

Missouri Findings

In 2010, 16,066 children received mental health services for serious emotional disorders (SED) through the Missouri Department of Mental Health, a drop from the 2006 figure of 22,294 that reflects the significant reduction in state funding for mental health services for children.

County Findings

In 2010, the counties with the highest number of children receiving mental health services were also among the most populous in Missouri. These counties were Jackson, St. Louis, St. Louis City, St. Charles, Greene, Jefferson, Jasper, and Buchanan. Together, these counties accounted for 76% of children receiving services for SED. The counties with the fewest children receiving services for SED were Mercer, Holt, Putnam, Reynolds, and Hickory.

¹ March of Dimes. (2008). *Medical resources: Low birthweight*. Retrieved January 28, 2012, from http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/medicalresources_lowbirthweight.html

² *Ibid.*

³ March of Dimes. (2010). *Your premature baby*. Retrieved February 2, 2012, from http://www.marchofdimes.com/baby/premature_indepth.html#

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). *2011 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf

⁶Tejada-Vera, B., & Sutton P. D. (2010). Births, marriages, divorces, and deaths: Provisional data for November 2009. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 58, no 23. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved March 2, 2011, from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_23.htm

⁷ ChildStats.gov. (2011). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2011*. Retrieved February 28, 2012, from <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/health2.asp>

⁸ Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. (2008). *MO HealthNet for kids*. Retrieved February 2, 2012, from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/mchild.htm>

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Lead. Retrieved February 7, 2012, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>

¹⁰ Buckland, M., Clayes, A., & Klein, T. (2009). Lead poisoning in children. *Step by Step Newsletter*, Volume 19, No. 3. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Outreach and Extension. Retrieved February 7, 2012, from <http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/step/vol19/no3/step0609.pdf>

¹¹ Ibid at 10.

¹² National Institute of Mental Health. (2009). *Treatment of children with mental illness*. Retrieved February 7, 2012, from

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/treatment-of-children-with-mental-illness-fact-sheet/nimh-treatment-children-mental-illness-faq.pdf>

¹³ Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. (n.d.) *Childhood mental illnesses*. Retrieved February 7, 2012, from <http://dmb.mo.gov/docs/mentalillness/childmentalillness.pdf>





PERSPECTIVE:
*child protection
and safety*

PERSPECTIVE: child protection and safety

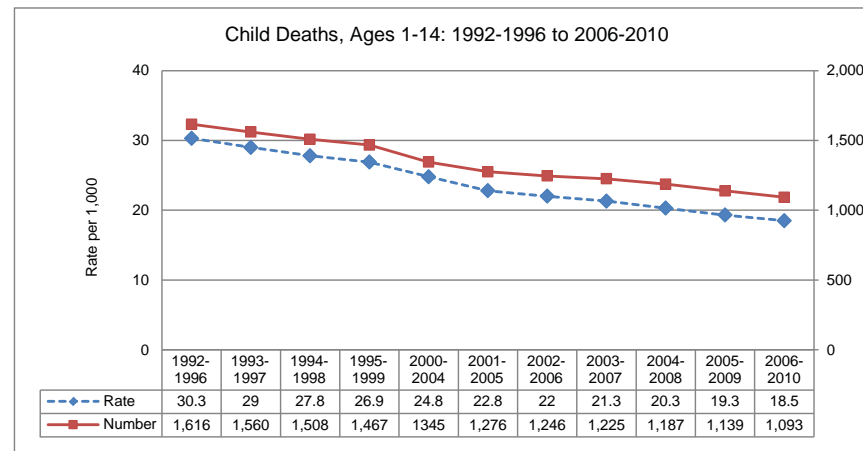
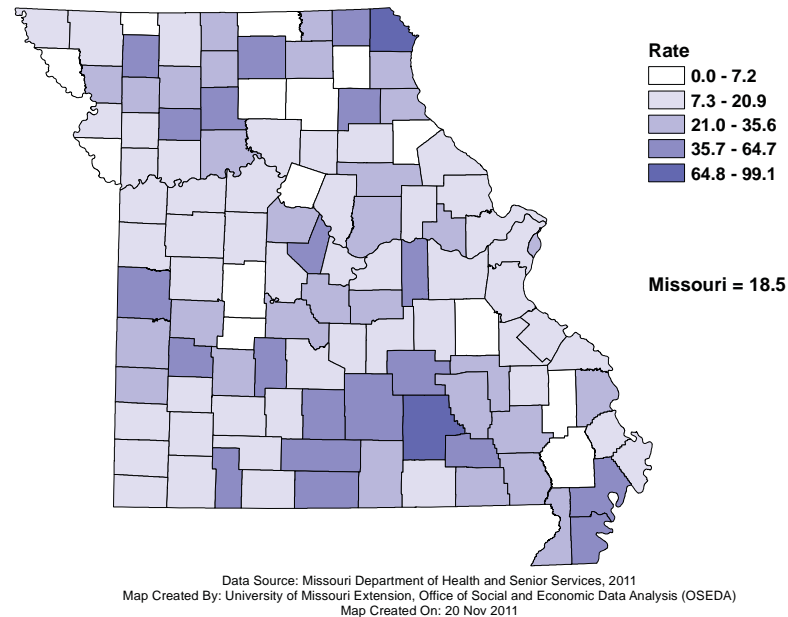
Child safety is another aspect of child well-being. Injuries, both intentional and unintentional, are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 19.¹ Most injuries and injury deaths can be prevented through proven interventions that include: education; environmental or product modification (car seats, bicycle helmets, smoke detectors); and better enforcement of legislation or regulations related to child safety.² Intentional injuries occur when there is intent to harm. They include injuries that occur as a result of violence, abuse, or neglect. Strategies for preventing these types of injuries are different from the strategies employed to prevent unintentional injuries, and they are not as well understood.³

Childhood maltreatment can adversely affect development, health, and well-being in the short and long term. Abused children are at higher risk of mental health disorders and more likely to engage in risk-taking behavior throughout childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.⁴

KIDS COUNT tracks four outcomes directly related to children's protection and safety:

- Child death, ages 1-14
- Child abuse and neglect
- Out-of-home placement entries
- Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19

Child Deaths Age 1-14 per 100,000 by County, 2006-2010



Child Deaths, Ages 1-14

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of deaths of children ages 1 through 14 from all causes. The rate is expressed per 100,000 children of that age group. Data were combined over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates.

Significance

As with infant mortality, the child death rate is a significant indicator of child well-being. Although mortality rates drop sharply after the first year of life, children are still at risk from a number of health and environmental factors. This outcome reflects physical health conditions, the amount of adult supervision, and the prevalence of risks that children face every day in their homes and communities. For this age group, accidents are the leading cause of death, with automobile accidents accounting for 17% of deaths in 2007.⁵

Missouri Findings

For the current five-year period of 2006-2010, the child death rate was 18.5, a decline from the figure of 22.8 for 2001-2005. For the 2006-2010 period, 1,139 child deaths occurred in Missouri.

County Findings

Because of the extremely small number

of deaths in most counties, even over a five-year period, this measure is not used to calculate the composite county rank. Rates should be interpreted with caution.

Between 2006-2010, nine Missouri counties experienced no child deaths: Bollinger, Linn, Ralls, Hickory, Putnam, Howard, Knox, Worth, and Holt. The counties with the highest rates of child death during the same period, all above 50 deaths per 100,000 children, were Clark, Shannon, Pemiscot, Cedar, and Wright.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of child abuse victims from reports classified as “probable cause” that indicates child abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, this outcome includes the number of child abuse victims that receive family assessments. The rate is expressed per 1,000 children.

Significance

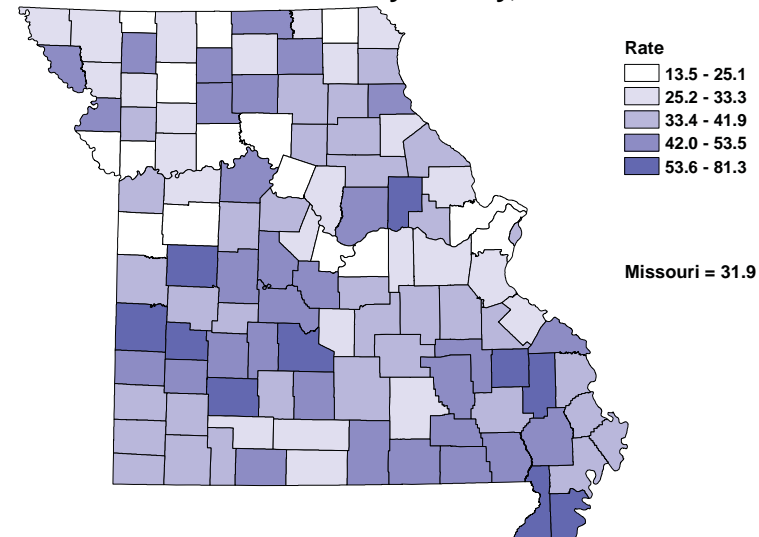
In the United States, about 700,000 children were determined to be victims of child abuse and neglect during 2010.⁶ However, the true incidence of maltreatment is estimated to be up to three times higher. Children who are abused and/or

neglected are more likely to experience negative outcomes throughout their lives in a number of areas:

- poor physical health (e.g., hypertension, chronic fatigue, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases)
- poor emotional and mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder)
- social difficulties (e.g., inability to trust others, inability to appropriately communicate needs and wants)
- behavioral problems (e.g., aggression and/or abusive and violent behavior, juvenile delinquency, adult criminal behaviors)
- cognitive problems that lead to poor academic achievement (e.g., deficits in attention, abstract reasoning, language development, problem-solving skills)
- high-risk behaviors (e.g., higher number of lifetime sexual partners, teen pregnancy, alcohol and substance use)⁷

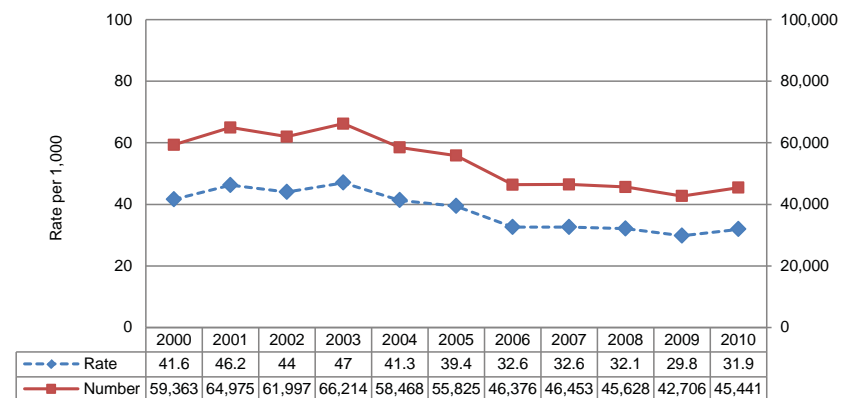
Children who are at highest risk for abuse and neglect often live in families with parents who were abused as children, suffer from mental disorders, have a history of criminal activity, and/or have a substance use problem. Adults

Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments per 1,000 Under 18 by County, 2010



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDa)
Map Created On: 20 Nov 2011

Child Abuse and Neglect Assessments: 2000-2010



who abuse children often have poor coping or problem-solving skills, and are socially isolated. Many are experiencing external stress, such as marital discord, work instability, or poor living conditions. Parental education levels, particularly maternal education, are also linked to child abuse and neglect. In addition to poverty and other socioeconomic disadvantages, family disorganization, dissolution, or a lack of family cohesion can also contribute to child abuse and neglect. When parents do not understand child development or the needs of children, they are more likely to abuse or neglect. In addition, there is a high risk of abuse for children living in families who experience domestic violence or violence in their communities.⁸ Young children and children with disabilities are more likely to be abused or neglected, and parents are often perpetrators.

Missouri Findings

In 2010, the child abuse and neglect rate was 31.9 (per 1,000 children). This is a slight decrease from the 2006 rate of 32.4 but a slight increase from the 2009 rate of 29.8.

In 2010, the Children's Division (Missouri Department of Social Services) received 56,897 reports of child abuse and neglect, involving 83,503 children.

Of these, 4,291 reports (6,055 children) were substantiated, meaning child abuse or neglect had occurred, while 26,079 reports (39,386 children) resulted in a family assessment. A family assessment takes the place of a traditional investigation and requires a prompt assessment of a child believed to be a victim and his or her family. Of the 26,079 reports resulting in a family assessment, 5,916 were identified as needing services from the Children's Division.

The Children's Division provides information on the types of abuse for substantiated reports, but since a report may represent more than one type of abuse, the following numbers do not add up to 4,291. Of the substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect in 2010, 1,409 were classified as physical abuse; 1,968 as neglect; 1,311 as sexual maltreatment; 167 as emotional maltreatment; 169 as medical neglect; and 65 as educational neglect.

In 2010, there were 29 child abuse or neglect fatalities in Missouri, a slight decrease from the 33 deaths in 2009.

County Findings

All county rates should be interpreted with caution because reporting practices differ between counties. In 2010, the

counties with the lowest rates of child abuse and neglect—all less than 20.0 per 1,000 children—were Mercer, St. Charles, St. Louis, Platte, and Howard. Ten counties had rates above 55.0 per 1,000 children: Cedar, Laclede, Pemiscot, Henry, Dunklin, Madison, Greene, Vernon, Montgomery, and Bollinger.

Out-of-Home Placement Entries

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of entries into the Missouri Children's Division (formerly the Division of Family Services) alternative care, including foster care, group homes, kinship/relative care, and residential settings. The rate is expressed per 1,000 children. The Children's Division defines out-of-home placement as out-of-home care that is provided in situations where parents are incapable of providing children with adequate social, emotional, and physical care. Out-of-home is defined as care provided in licensed foster or approved relative family homes, licensed residential facilities, or licensed group homes. The service provides substitute settings for children. Children are placed only after it is determined that they cannot remain at home.

This measure is open to multiple interpretations. An increase in out-of-home placement rates may suggest that more children are living in unsafe homes or that attempts to improve the family environment are meeting with less success. Or, it may suggest that fewer children remain in dangerous situations. If those children who live in dangerous homes are removed and placed in stable, loving environments, they may be safer than children left in their homes. Thus, it is difficult to equate out-of-home placement rates with how well a county is caring for its children.

Significance

Many of the children who are removed from their homes are experiencing profound abuse, neglect, or disruption. These children are considered at risk for adverse outcomes.

Children need to live in stable, safe and permanent homes and communities in order to develop their full potential. If a child is residing in an unsafe home or experiencing abuse or neglect, he or she may need to be removed from the home and placed in a new, stable environment. Once a child is placed in a new setting, the state must continue to monitor his or her safety, health, and overall well-being.

Unfortunately, when children are removed from their homes, they often lose contact with other family members and friends, go through multiple placements, and have overlooked physical health, mental health, and educational needs. Long-term out-of-home placements can have negative consequences for children even into adulthood. Children in foster care may not have the necessary supports to help them develop into self-sufficient adults.

- Children who are placed in kinship/relative care (non-parental family members raising children to whom they are related) experience more stability than children in other forms of foster care.⁹
- Children in kinship care suffer fewer changes in placement than do non-kinship care foster children.
- Sixty-three percent of children in kinship foster care are forced to change schools, a number that is far too high but compares favorably to the far higher rates for children residing in group homes (93%) and in non-kinship foster care (80%).
- Children in kinship care are more likely to live with their siblings,

which research has shown to be beneficial both emotionally and psychologically for foster children.

In addition, children who are in kinship care have greater positive perceptions of their placements, and as a result, have fewer behavioral problems.¹⁰

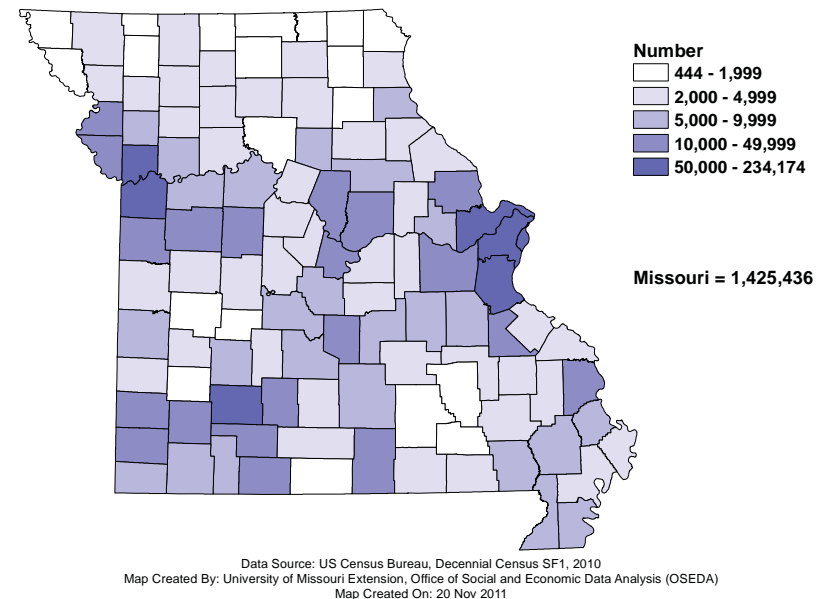
Missouri Findings

In 2010, the out-of-home placement rate was 4.4 (per 1,000 children), a slight increase from the 4.1 rate for 2006. There were 5,141 out-of-home placement entries in 2010.

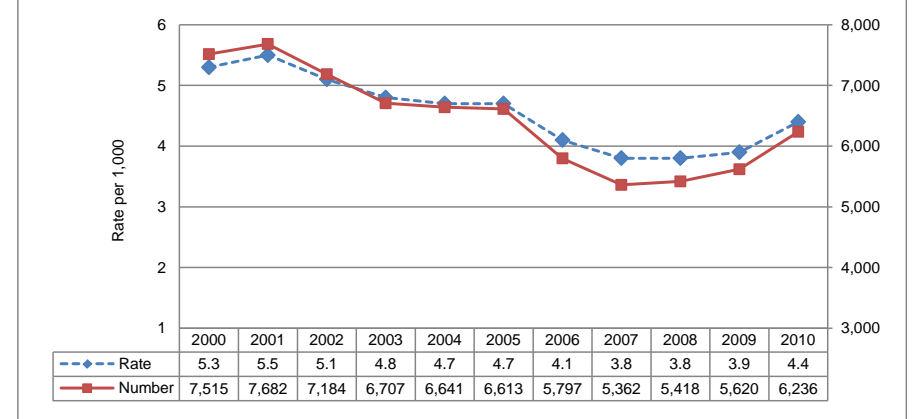
County Findings

Because of the ambiguous nature of this measure, county rankings should be interpreted with caution. In 2010, four counties had no out-of-home placement entries: Monroe, Andrew, Shannon, and Carroll. The counties with the highest rates, all above 10.0 per 1,000 children, were Stoddard, Dunklin, Henry, Newton, Pemiscot, McDonald, St. Clair, and Jasper.

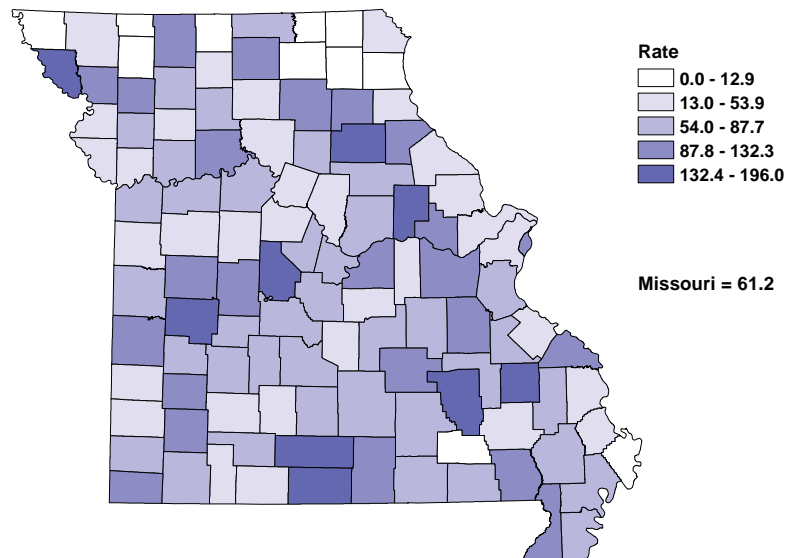
Population Under 18, 2010



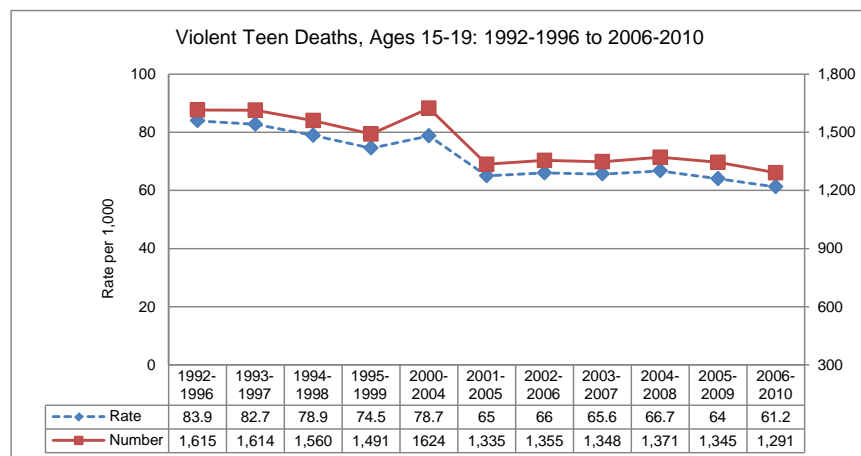
Out-of-Home Placement Entries: 2000-2010



Violent Deaths per 100,000 Teens Ages 15-19 by County, 2006-2010



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)
Map Created On: 20 Nov 2011



Violent Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 from homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes, and other accidents. The rate is expressed per 100,000 teens of that age group. Data are combined over five-year periods to provide more stable rates.

Significance

The overall rates of injury and death increase dramatically from childhood to late adolescence, due to developmental and social factors such as increasing independence and less time spent without adult supervision.¹¹ Biology also plays a role. The maturation of brain networks responsible for self-regulation does not typically occur until late adolescence or early adulthood, making teens more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors.¹² Nationally, the three leading causes of teen deaths are motor vehicle accidents, homicides, and suicides, all of which are preventable.¹³ Young drivers ages 16-24 are more likely to use cell phones for texting or calling when driving, which dramatically increases their risk of crashing.¹⁴

Missouri Findings

For the years 2006-2010, 1,291 teens ages 15 to 19 died in Missouri. For those

years, the rate of teen violent death was 61.2 per 100,000 teens ages 15 to 19. This is a decrease from 64.7 for the 2001-2005 period.

County Findings

Because of the extremely small number of deaths in most counties, even over a five-year period, this measure is not used to calculate the composite county rank. Rates should be interpreted with caution. However, 10 Missouri counties experienced no violent teen deaths of those 15 to 19 years old during the 2005 to 2009 time period: Atchison, Carter, Gentry, Knox, Lewis, Mercer, Mississippi, Schuyler, Scotland, and Worth. The counties with the highest violent teen death rate, all over 150 per 100,000 teen ages 15 to 19, were Monroe, Madison, Holt, Douglas, St. Clair, and Morgan.

¹ ChildStats.gov. (2011). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2011*. Retrieved February 28, 2012, from <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/phenviro7.asp>

² Packard Foundation. (2000). Unintentional injuries in childhood. *Future of Children*, 10(1), 1-21.

³ Ibid.

⁴ National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health. (2009). History of childhood maltreatment linked to higher rates of unemployment, poverty. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/history-of-childhood-maltreatment-linked-to-higher-rates-of-unemployment-poverty.shtml>

⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). 2011 Kids Count Data Book. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf

⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2010). *Child maltreatment 2010*. Retrieved March 5, 2012, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/cm10.pdf>

⁷ Wang, C. T., & Holton, J. (2007). *Total estimated cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States*. Chicago: Prevent Child Abuse America. Retrieved March 10, 2011, from http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pcaa_pew_economic_impact_study_final.pdf

⁸ Promising Practices Network. (2010). *Promising practices for preventing child abuse and neglect* (Issue Brief). Santa Monica, CA: Author. Retrieved March 11, 2011, from http://www.promisingpractices.net/briefs/briefs_childabuse.asp?ref=ppntext

⁹ Conway, T., & Hutson, R. Q. (2007). *Is kinship care good for kids?* Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Retrieved March 1, 2012, from <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0347.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Schwarz, S. W. (2009, October). *Adolescent violence and unintentional injury in the United States*. New York: National Center for Children in Poverty. Retrieved March 1, 2012, from http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_890.pdf

¹² Ibid.

¹³ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). *2011 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf

¹⁴ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. (2011, March). *Cellphones, texting, and driving*. Retrieved March 11, 2011, from <http://www.iihs.org/research/qanda/cellphones.aspx>





PERSPECTIVE:
educational success

PERSPECTIVE educational success

Early childhood, elementary, and secondary education provide the foundation for children's future success in our society. Preparing children for school, maximizing their development and achievement in all arenas, and ensuring that they stay in school are key goals to helping all Missouri children have the chance to be productive adults. For Missouri to be a significant economic competitor in the future, the state will need a highly educated and skilled workforce. Two-thirds of the new jobs created in the United States require some education or training beyond high school,¹ yet 30% of high school students nationally fail to earn a high school diploma.² For black and Hispanic students, only about half earn their diploma.³ Clearly, improvement needs to be made in our education pipeline in order to ensure that Missouri cultivates a workforce that has the skills to be productive in the future.

From economists to military generals, the importance of early childhood education has been touted as one of the most logical and cost-effective ways to address problems in the education pipeline. High quality early learning experiences provide the building blocks for children's school readiness. However, children do not develop school readiness skills in isolation. Other important factors—such as the physical

and mental health of children and their parents, family economic risk, family structure, home environment, parenting choices, and community and neighborhood characteristics—play key roles in the extent to which children are ready for school, as well as schools being ready for children.

Research has demonstrated the positive impact of good preschool programs on children's future academic success. Compared to peers who did not participate in early education programs, children who attend high quality preschools are:

- more likely to have better grades
- less likely to repeat grades
- less likely to need special education classes
- more likely to graduate high school and enroll in college.⁴

The effects of quality preschools extend beyond academics. Compared to peers who did not participate in early education programs, children who attend high quality preschools are also:

- less likely to engage in criminal behavior throughout life
- more likely to be employed
- more likely to have higher earnings

- less likely to depend on public assistance
- less likely to become teenage parents.

Approximately two-thirds of Missouri's children under 6 spend a portion of their day in the care of someone other than their parents. Unfortunately, many young Missouri children do not have access to, or cannot afford, the kind of high quality preschool programs that are needed to make a difference in their lives. Missouri should make access to publicly funded, high quality preschool programs an educational priority.

Adolescence is another crucial developmental period in a child's life. There are several key developmental milestones that must be met to ensure a successful transition to productive adulthood, ranging from the most basic—surviving the teen years and avoiding criminal activity—to milestones required for higher level functioning in the adult world, such as succeeding in school and delaying starting a family and childrearing responsibilities. Recent advances in understanding how adolescent brains develop demonstrate that teens do not have all the neural structures in place for appropriate self-regulation. This, of course, explains why teens often act in ways that seem obviously impulsive, irrational, or dangerous. In addition, as discussed above in the context of early

childhood, there are other factors besides personal ones that come into play when examining adolescents' well-being, including the influence of parents, peers, family economics, home environment, and community and neighborhood characteristics.

KIDS COUNT tracks two outcomes related to educational success:

- Annual high school dropouts
- Births to teens, ages 15-19

In addition, 5 other education-related indicators are reported:

- Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)
- Children with limited English proficiency
- Children receiving subsidized child care
- Licensed child care capacity
- Accredited child care facilities

In comparison to the base years, the educational outlook for Missouri children is quite positive. One of the most important outcomes, annual high school dropouts, decreased over 10% from 2006 to 2010, from 3.9% to 3.5%. Another positive trend is the over 19% decrease in birth to teens ages 5-19 between 2006 and 2010. Juvenile law referrals also decreased over

11% from 2006 to 2009. On the early childhood education front, the findings are mostly positive. Licensed child care capacity increased 5.3% from 2006 to 2011. On the other hand, the number of accredited child care centers decreased by 15.4%, more a potential indicator of the economic downturn, given that accreditation costs money, than a generalized decrease in child care quality. The number of children receiving subsidized child care increased by 11.8%, which is not surprising during an economic downturn. Finally, as would be expected in our state as it becomes more demographically and culturally diverse, the number of children who have limited English proficiency increased by 4.7% from 2006 to 2010.

Annual High School Dropouts

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of students enrolled in public high schools who left school during the school year without graduating. The rate is expressed as a percent of enrolled students. The formula used to calculate the rate accounts for transfers in and out of a school district. However, it does not include students who drop out of school but eventually earn their General Education Development (GED) certificates. The years indicated are school years; for example, 2010 refers to the 2009-2010 school year.

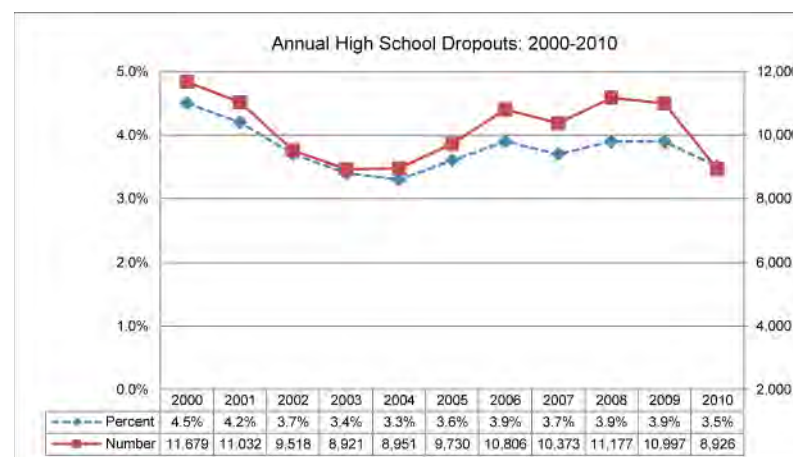
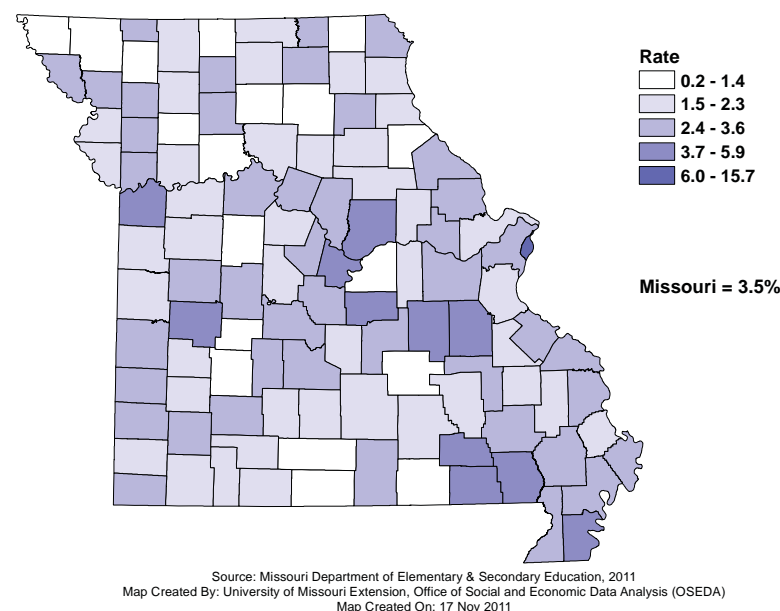
It is important to note that school district superintendents provide dropout information to Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Criteria for how dropout data are calculated and entered may differ from district to district. Dropout data may also be changed for up to 10 years. This means that the dropout rates reported this year may not match data presented in earlier years.

Significance

When students drop out of high school, they face many challenges that hinder their abilities to become successful and productive adults. In 2009, the median annual income for a high school dropout in the U.S. was \$18,432, whereas the median income for a high school graduate was \$26,776.⁶ Youth who leave high school without receiving a diploma are more likely to be unemployed, receive public assistance, and be incarcerated as adults.⁷ In addition, high school dropouts are more likely to be single parents and to have children who also do not complete high school.⁸

Research shows that over their working lives, the average high school dropout will have a negative net fiscal contribution to society of nearly -\$5,200, while the average high school graduate generates a positive lifetime contribution of \$287,000. Relative to an average person

Annual High School Dropout Rate by County, 2010



who graduates high school, the average high school dropout will cost taxpayers over \$292,000 in lower tax revenues, higher cash and in-kind transfer costs, and more incarceration costs.⁹ Addressing the dropout problem can help support long-term economic growth within a state.

Missouri Findings

For the 2009-2010 school year, Missouri's high school dropout rate was 3.5%, which was a decrease from last year's rate of 3.9%. This year's figure represented 8,926 students dropping out of school. The dropout rate bottomed out at 3.4% in 2003 and 2004, and until this year had been trending upward.

County Findings

Seven counties had dropout rates of one percent or less in 2009-10: Douglas, Caldwell, Oregon, Mercer, Ozark, Carroll, Osage, and Pettis. Conversely, 15.7% of enrolled high school students in the City of St. Louis dropped out in 2009-10. Other counties that had dropout rates of four percent or greater were Crawford, St. Clair, Ripley, Jackson, Washington, Butler, Carter, and Callaway.

Births to Teens, ages 15-19

Definition

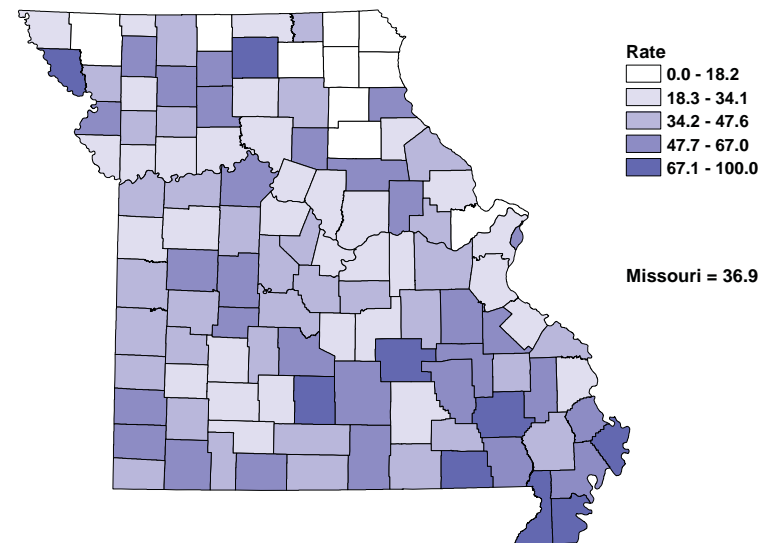
KIDS COUNT tracks the number of live births to teen girls ages 15 to 19. The rate is expressed per 1,000 females of that age group.

Significance

Giving birth as a teen presents social, economic, and health risks for both the mother and baby. Teen mothers are more likely than other young women to drop out of school, remain unmarried and become single parents, and live in poverty and rely on public assistance.¹⁰ The children of teen mothers also face adverse consequences since teen mothers are less likely to have the necessary financial resources, social supports, and parenting skills to ensure health child development. Research has shown that, compared to children born to older mothers, children born to teen mothers are more likely to:

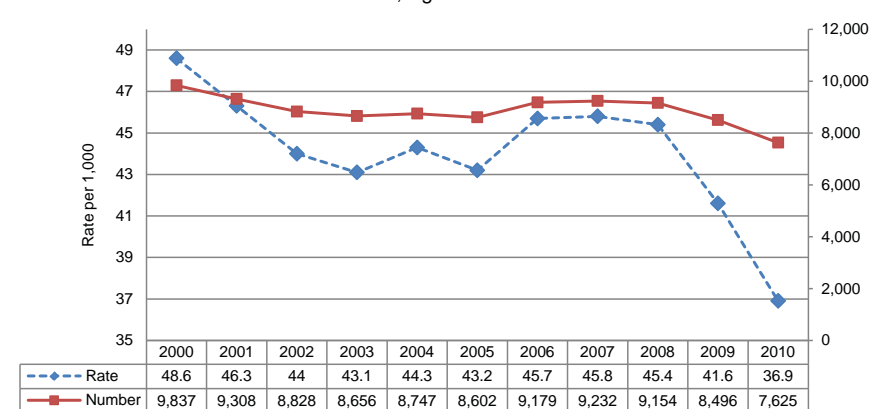
- be classified as low birth weight
- be premature
- suffer abuse and neglect
- have lower language and math skills
- have less general knowledge
- show deficits in social and emotional skills

Births to Teens Age 15-19 per 1,000 Females by County, 2010



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created On: 20 Nov 2011

Births to Teens, Ages 15-19: 2000-2010



- experience more problems in physical well-being and motor development
- drop out of high school
- become teen parents as well
- spend time in prison^{11, 12, 13}

Although figures have been declining, the United States still has the highest rate of teen births among comparable countries. In fact, the U.S. rate (41.0 per 1,000) is significantly higher than the rates in the United Kingdom (26.7 per 1,000) and in Canada (14.1 per 1,000).¹⁴

Missouri Findings

The rate of births to teen mothers decreased sharply in recent years, from 45.7 births per 1,000 teen girls in 2006 to 36.9 births per 1,000 teenagers in 2010.

County Findings

Seven counties had teen birth rates less than 20.0 (per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19) in 2010: Scotland, Mercer, Shelby, Lewis, Nodaway, Clark, and Monroe. High teen birth rates (above 80.0 per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19) were found in Mississippi, Holt, Wayne, Ripley, Sullivan, and Dunklin.

Juvenile Law Violation Referrals, Ages 10-17 (per 1,000)

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of referrals to one of the 45 juvenile courts in Missouri for acts that would be violations of the Missouri Criminal Code if committed by an adult.

Significance

Antisocial behavior may be a normal part of growing up—or the beginning of a long-term pattern of adult criminal activity. Many young people commit some kind of petty offense at some point during their adolescence and yet do not become adult criminals. However, studies have shown that about half the adolescents WHO had juvenile justice records went on to become adults with felony records.^{15, 16, 17}

Because the brain networks responsible for self-regulation are continuing to develop in adolescence, teenagers are less likely to think about future consequences of their present actions, more likely to take great risks, make impulsive decisions, and to be vulnerable to coercion by peers.¹⁸ In addition, other familial and societal factors also play direct and indirect roles, including poverty, family instability, family conflict and violence, poor parental supervision, and gang membership.¹⁹

Missouri Findings

The rate of juvenile law violation referrals for youth ages 10 to 17 has declined from 58 per 1,000 in 2006 to 51.3 per 1,000 in 2010. There were 32,737 juvenile law referrals in 2010. This number represents separately disposed court referrals, not individual youths.

In 2010, minority youth comprised 38% of the referrals, whereas non-minority youth accounted for 62%. Minority youths continue to have a disproportionate involvement with the juvenile justice system.

County Findings

In 2009, the counties with the lowest juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10 to 17, per 1,000, were Wayne, Chariton, Pemiscot, Moniteau, DeKalb, and Maries counties. These counties all had rates below 14 per 1,000 youth. The counties with the highest rates in 2009 (all above 80 per 1,000 youths) were Mississippi, Randolph, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Boone, and Vernon.

Children with Limited English Proficiency

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of

children enrolled in Missouri schools that have been defined as limited in their English proficiency.

Significance

When children have difficulty speaking, reading, or otherwise communicating in English because of their home language, it can affect their abilities to succeed academically. However, since the source of these data are individual school districts, and because there are no absolute guidelines for identifying such students, the number of students with limited English proficiency (LEP) are difficult to compare across time and across counties.

Missouri Findings

The number of children enrolled in Missouri schools deemed to have limited English proficiency increased slightly from 19,092 in 2006 to 19,986 in 2010.

County Findings

In 2010, the counties with the most number of children with limited English proficiency were part of the Kansas City and St. Louis metropolitan areas: Jackson, St. Louis, St. Louis City, and Clay counties. However, twenty-nine rural counties reported zero children with limited English proficiency. From 2006 to 2010, the counties that gained the most number of children with limited

English proficiency were Clay, Greene, Barry, Buchanan, Jasper, Newton, and St. Charles.

Licensed Child Care Capacity

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of spaces in licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers. Licensed facilities must undergo regular fire, sanitation, and health inspections, as well as regular inspections by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Section for Child Care Regulation. Licensing requirements and regulations address the maximum child-to-staff ratio per age group and setting, caregiver training and educational requirements, caregiver age, what background checks are needed for caregivers and household members, how children may be disciplined, and food and nutrition requirements.

Significance

For child care programs, meeting licensure requirements is a first step toward providing quality care. However, licensure only addresses the basic needs and requirements for facilities that provide child care and is not a guarantee of high quality services. Licensed child care capacity, relative to the number of children

needing child care in a community, is an important factor in determining whether families can find and afford care for their children.

Missouri Findings

In 2011, Missouri had 152,750 spaces available in licensed child care facilities, a small increase from the 144,628 slots available in 2006.

County Findings

From 2006 to 2011, the counties that added the most number of slots in licensed child care facilities were St. Charles, Pettis, St. Louis City, Greene, St. Louis, and Jefferson. The counties that lost the most number of slots during the same time period were Jasper, Franklin, Buchanan, Marion, and Scott.

Children Receiving Subsidized Child Care

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of children participating in one of the following subsidized child care programs: FUTURES, transitional, income maintenance/income eligible, at-risk, and child care and development block grant.

Significance

State child care assistance is essential

in providing reliable child care for children of low-income parents who would otherwise not be able to afford such care. Without assistance, many low-income families would be forced to go into debt, return to welfare, or chose lower quality child care arrangements. For center-based care, the average cost of full-time child care for an infant in Missouri is \$8,550; for a four-year-old in full-time center-based care, the average cost was \$5,950. For home-based care, the average cost of full-time child care for an infant in Missouri is \$5,500; for a four-year-old, the average cost was \$4,800.²⁰ These figures are nearly equal to tuition at state universities. The prohibitive cost of child care often forces families to make difficult decisions such as leaving a job to take care of children or enrolling their child in low-quality care that is not regulated by the state.

In 2011, eligibility for child care assistance was at 127% of the federal poverty threshold, one of the lowest levels in the nation. In fact, Missouri ranks 48th in terms of supporting poor families with child care.²¹

Missouri Findings

In 2010, 46,795 children received subsidized child care in Missouri, an increase from the 2006 figure of 41,295. It is hypothesized that the current economic downturn has caused more Missouri

families to use child care assistance programs than in the past.

County Findings

From 2006 to 2010, the counties that saw the largest increases in children receiving subsidized child care were St. Louis, Jackson, St. Louis City, Clay, St. Charles, and Jefferson. The counties that experienced the biggest decreases during the same time period were Randolph, Cape Girardeau, Mississippi, Pemiscot, Vernon, Butler, Pulaski, and Dunklin.

Accredited Child Care Facilities

Definition

KIDS COUNT tracks the number of child care facilities that are accredited by at least one of the following state-approved accrediting entities: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Missouri Accreditation (MO-A), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Afterschool Association (NAA), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Significance

Accreditation is a voluntary process that

child care facilities, including afterschool care programs, go through to demonstrate that the program they offer meets the accrediting entity's standards for quality. Accreditation standards go beyond licensing requirements and address every aspect of a facility's operations.

Missouri Findings

In 2011, 531 child care facilities were accredited by one of the state-approved accrediting bodies, a decrease from 613 in 2006. Because accreditation costs money, some of these decreases may be attributed to programs choosing not to keep their accreditation due to difficult economic circumstances.

County Findings

From 2006 to 2011, the counties that gained the most number of accredited child care facilities were St. Louis, Buchanan, Marion, and Christian. The counties that lost the most number of accredited facilities during the same time period were St. Louis City, Jackson, Phelps, Webster, and Jefferson.

¹ Carnevale, A. P., & Desrochers, D. M. (2003). *Standards for what? The economic roots of K-16 reform*. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

² Greene, J. P., & Winters, M. A. (2005). *Public high school graduation and college readiness rates: 1991-2002*. Education Working Paper, No. 8. New York: Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Galinsky, E. (2006). *The economic benefits of high-quality early childhood programs: What makes the difference?* Washington, DC: The Committee for Economic Development.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2012, February). *Educational attainment in the United States: 2009*. Retrieved March 4, 2012, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p20-566.pdf>

⁷ Levin, H.M., & Belfield, C.R. (2007). Educational interventions to raise high school graduation rates. In C.R. Belfield and H.M. Levin (Eds.), *The price we pay: Economic and social consequences of inadequate education* (pp. 177-199). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Center for Labor Market Studies. (2009). *The consequences of dropping out of high school*. Northeastern University: Boston. Retrieved March 6, 2012, from http://www.americaspromise.org/~media/Files/Resources/Consequences_of_Dropping_Out_of_High_School.ashx

¹⁰ Child Trends and The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2005). *Playing catch-up: How children born to teen mothers fare*. Retrieved March 5, 2012, from <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/pdf/pubs/PlayingCatchUp.pdf>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Nock, S. (2005). Marriage as a public issue. *Marriage and Child Wellbeing: The Future of Children*, 15, 13-32.

¹³ National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (n.d.). *Why it matters: Teen pregnancy and overall child well-being*. Retrieved March 4, 2012, from http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/child_well-being.pdf.

¹⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2011). 2011 Kids Count Data Book. Retrieved February 19, 2012, from http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data-book/2011/OnlineBooks/2011KCDB_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁵ Washington State Institute for Public Policy. (1997, January). *The class of 1988, seven years later: How a juvenile offender's crime, criminal history, and age affect the chances of becoming an adult felon in Washington state*. Olympia, WA: Author. Retrieved March 5, 2011, from <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/classo88.pdf>

¹⁶ Rivers, J., & Trotti, T. (1995). *South Carolina delinquent males: An 11-year follow-up into adult probation and prison* [Abstract].

Abstract from National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

¹⁷ Office of Economic Analysis, State of Oregon. (2003). *Previously incarcerated juveniles in Oregon's adult corrections system*. Salem, OR: Author. Retrieved March 15, 2011, from <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/docs/oja/oja-to-corrections.pdf?ga=t>.

¹⁸ MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development. (2008). *Bringing research to policy and practice in juvenile justice: Less guilty by reason of adolescence*. Issue Brief 3. Philadelphia: Author.

¹⁹ Tischler, H. L. (2004). *Introduction to sociology* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

²⁰ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. (2011). *2011 child care in the state of Missouri*. Retrieved March 6, 2012, from http://www.naccrra.org/sites/default/files/default_site_pages/2011/childcareinamericafacts_2011_final.pdf

²¹ Schulman, K., & Blank, H. (2011). *State child care policies 2011: Reduced support for families in challenging times*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center. Retrieved March 6, 2012, from http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/state_child_care_assistance_policies_report2011_final.pdf





COUNTY PROFILES

UNDERSTANDING YOUR COUNTY'S DATA

Understanding the 2011 State and County Profile Pages

KIDS COUNT provides a comprehensive view of the status of children in Missouri through outcome measures and contextual indicators. Measures and indicators are reported comparatively and as trends.

The 2011 *KIDS COUNT* state and county pages include 10 outcome measures reported by base year, 2006, and current year, 2010. For four measures (low birth weight infants, infant mortality, child deaths, and violent teen deaths), five-year periods of data are aggregated to provide more stable rates. Similarly, base year and current year data at five-year increments are provided for the 19 supplementary indicators.

On the county pages, both counts and rates are given for the outcome measures. The count represents the number of cases (e.g., children, incidents, events) that meet the outcome measure definition over a given number of years (one or five years, depending on the measure). A count is presented for both the base and current years. The rate represents the ratio of cases measured by the indicator to the total possible population of cases that could be affected over the one- or five-year period. The ratio is expressed as either a percent or a rate per a specific increment of the population

such as “per 1,000” or “per 100,000.” The state rate is also provided for each outcome measure.

A symbol is provided for each outcome measure to describe the direction of the trend between the base year and current year. A “check mark” symbol indicates outcomes for children are improving, while an “x” symbol indicates a decline in the well-being of a county’s children. Detailed definitions of the *KIDS COUNT* in Missouri outcome measures are provided in the “Data Notes & Sources” section.

Counties are assigned a rank between 1 (best) and 115 to describe the relative well-being of their children compared to Missouri as well as other counties and the City of St. Louis. A composite county rank is calculated for each county based on six of ten outcome measures. Four measures (low birth weight infants, child deaths, child abuse and neglect, and violent deaths) are not used to calculate this rate due to instability or inconsistencies in the data.

Using County Data

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2011 Data Book* and the entire data set are available online on the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis website: www.osedamissouri.edu/kidscount.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s *KIDS COUNT* Data Center also provides easy online access to *KIDS COUNT* in Missouri data, as well as child well-being data for all U.S. states and many cities, counties, and school districts. Data indicators can be found for such topics as education, employment and income, health, poverty, and youth risk factors.

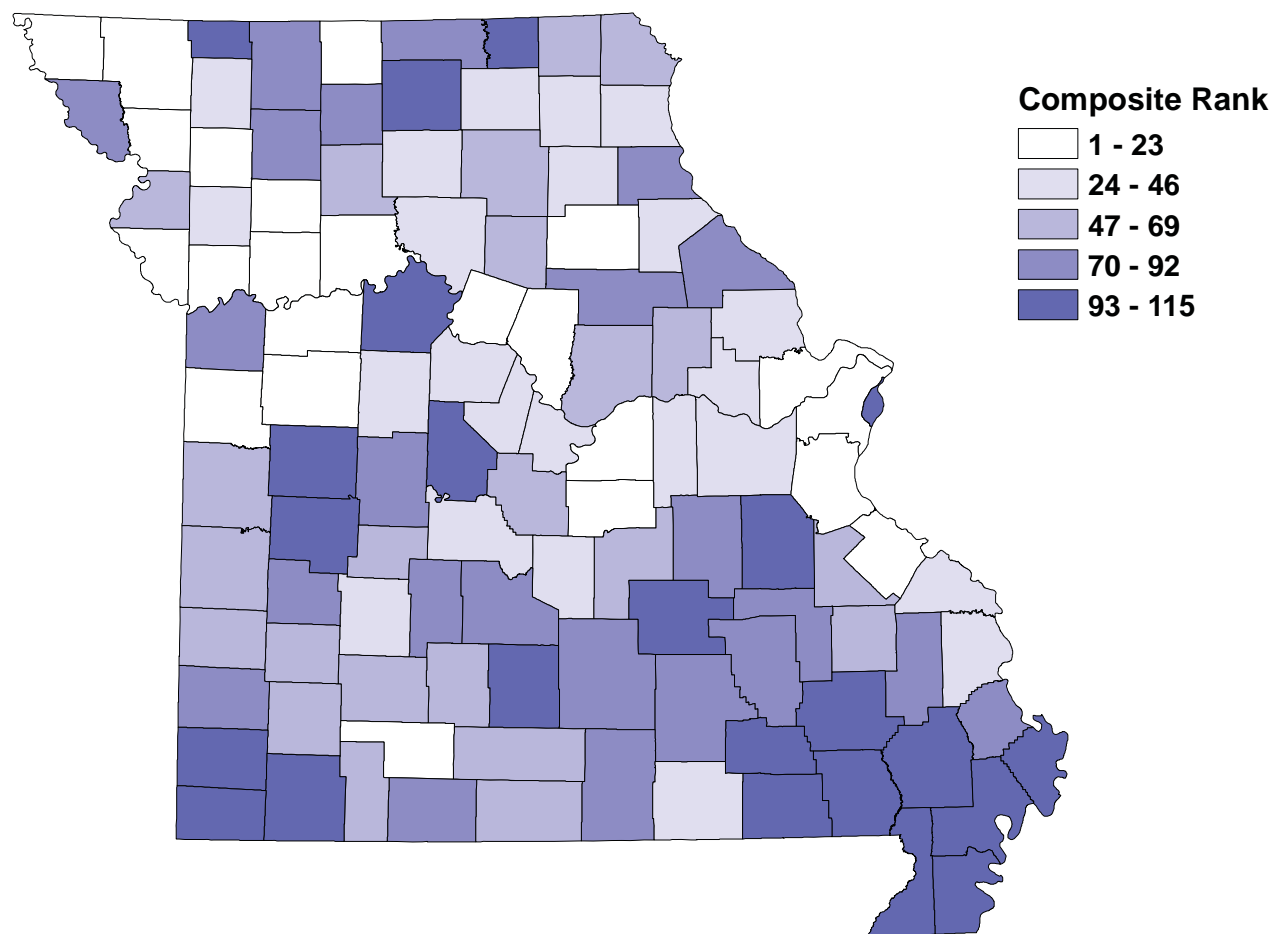
On the *KIDS COUNT* Data Center, users can:

- Access detailed information for communities across the country for use in planning, preparing reports, assessing needs, and crafting policies.
- Rank states, cities, and other geographic areas by key indicators of child well-being.
- Generate customized maps and trend lines that show differences in outcomes for children within or across states.
- Create graphs, maps, and charts for a website or blog that will automatically update as new data is added to the *KIDS COUNT* Data Center.
- Share information and comment via social networking sites.
- Access research and recommendations on best practices to improve outcomes for children.

To view ***KIDS COUNT in Missouri*** data on the *KIDS COUNT* Data Center visit:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Missouri Kids Count, 2011 Composite County Rankings



Source: Missouri KidsCount, 2011
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)
Map Created On: 17 Nov 2011



DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

Outcome Measures

Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch:

number of students who are enrolled in the free or reduced price National School Lunch Program. Children from households with incomes less than 130% of poverty are eligible for free lunches; those from households below 185% of poverty are eligible for reduced price lunches. Rate is expressed as percent of total school enrollment. *Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Births to mothers without high school diplomas:

number of live births that occur to women who have less than 12 years of education as indicated on a child's birth certificate. Rate is expressed as percent of all live births. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Low birth weight infants: number of live infants recorded as having a birth weight under 2,500 grams (five pounds, eight ounces). Rate is expressed as a percent of total live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Infant mortality: number of deaths to infants under one year of age. Rate

is expressed per 1,000 live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Child deaths, ages 1-14: number of deaths from all causes of children ages one to 14. Rate is expressed per 100,000 children of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Child abuse and neglect: number of child abuse victims from reports classified as "probable cause," indicating that child abuse or neglect has occurred, and from children receiving family assessments. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Out-of-home placement entries: number of entries into Division of Family Services alternative care, including foster care, group homes, relative care, and residential settings. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Annual high school dropouts: number of students (grades nine through 12) enrolled in public schools that left school during the school year without graduating. Rate is expressed as percent of enrolled students. The formula used to calculate the rate accounts for transfers in and out of a district. Years indicated are school years; for example, 2010 indicates the 2009-2010 school year. *Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

Births to teens, ages 15-19: number of live births that occur to girls ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 1,000 girls of that age group. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19: number of deaths from homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes, and other accidents to teens ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 100,000 teens of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Demographic Data

Child population: total resident population under age 18, including dependents

of the Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Children as percent of total population: percentage of total population that is under age 18. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Minority children: percentage of children under age 18 who are identified as non white. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Children with limited English proficiency: number of children reported by school districts as having limited English language skills. *Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

Economic Data

Children in poverty: percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The 2009 poverty threshold was \$22,050 for a family of four. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA ratio is reported. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census.*

Children under 6 in poverty: percentage of related children under age six who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The 2010 poverty threshold was \$22,314 for a family of four. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA ratio is reported. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census.*

Children in single-parent families: percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person without a spouse present in the home. *Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census.*

Average annual wage/salary: average annual wage/salary per job. County data indicate annual wage/salary for all jobs located in that county. An employee may live in a different county from where they work. *Source: USDC, Bureau of Economic Analysis.*

Adult unemployment: percentage of civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively looking for work. *Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Employment Security.*

Family Supports Data

Parents paying child support in state system: percentage of all cases served through Department of Social Services,

Division of Child Support Enforcement, that receive partial or full payment of their child support order. In situations where the total number of payments toward child support orders paid throughout the year is greater than the total number of standing payment orders enumerated at the end of the fiscal year, reporting values may exceed 100%. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services.*

Children receiving subsidized child care: total number of children participating in one of the following subsidized child care programs: FUTURES, transitional, income maintenance/income eligible, at-risk, and child care and development block grant. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services.*

Licensed child care capacity: number of spaces in licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Accredited child care facilities: number of child care centers accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Missouri Accreditation (MO-A), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Afterschool Association (NAA), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilita-

tion Facilities (CARF). *Source: Missouri Voluntary Accreditation; National Association for the Education of Young Children.*

Children receiving cash assistance: average monthly percentage of population under age 18 that live in households receiving public assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Children receiving food stamps: percent age of population under age 18 who live in households receiving food stamp benefits. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Health/Mental Health Data

Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids: average monthly percentage of children under age 18 who have applied for and have been certified eligible for participation in MO HealthNet for Kids, Missouri's health insurance program for children in low-income families, either through managed care or traditional fee-for-service providers. This indicator includes both number and rate. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and*

Planning.

Children with elevated blood lead levels: number of children whose blood contained 10 or more micrograms of lead per deciliter. Rate is expressed as percent of children who were screened. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Children receiving public SED mental health services: an unduplicated count of children receiving treatment through a division of the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) for serious emotional disorders (SED) as of January 1st of the year reported for whom DMH provided a service in that calendar year. *Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health.*

Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10- 17: number of referrals to juvenile courts in Missouri for acts that would be violations of the Missouri Criminal Code if committed by an adult. The count represents separately disposed court referrals, not individual youth. Rate is expressed per 1,000 youths ages ten through 17. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; Missouri Office of Administration.*



Partnership for Children

4049 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 120
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-531-9200
www.pfc.org
info@pfc.org

