

# KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 Data Book

*the State of Our State's Children*



# KIDS COUNT in Missouri



Welcome to the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 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 website, <http://osedata.missouri.edu/kidscount/>, are easily accessible tools to assist local and state public policy-makers 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.



## 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 2012 Data Book* comes from the Children's Trust Fund.

## Sponsors



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](http://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 America's children.

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 Data Book* was produced by Partnership for Children 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 acknowledgment is given. This report, the full data set, and corresponding interactive data tools are available at [www.osedata.missouri.edu/kidscount](http://www.osedata.missouri.edu/kidscount).



April 2013

Greetings!

Partnership for Children is pleased to present the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 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, often troubling, trends that are significantly impacting our children. This year, the increase in children living in poverty continues to be one of those disturbing trends.

Poverty is one of the main obstacles to prosperity for Missouri's youngest citizens. Research tells us that children growing up in poverty often 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 annual *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* is one of the most trusted resources on the status of Missouri's children. This year's report 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.

There is no doubt the Great Recession could leave an indelible mark on our children. But accurate data and information is key to understanding the realities our kids are facing and to determining the best opportunities to protect them, securing not only their futures but the future of Missouri.

We hope that you find the *KIDS COUNT* data valuable in your work on behalf of Missouri's young people, and we invite you to share the information with other advocates throughout the state. By working together, sharing best practices and making sure all kids, no matter where they live, have the opportunity to reach their full potential, we can ensure a bright future for our youngest citizens and our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charron Townsend".

Charron Townsend  
President



# Acknowledgements

## ***KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 Advisory Committee***

**Ryan Barker**, Missouri Foundation for Health  
**Amy Blouin**, Missouri Budget Project  
**Sue Boresi**, Office of the Attorney General  
**Mary Chant**, Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies  
**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 and 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**, 4-H University Extension  
**Jerry Lonergan**, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City  
**Cathi Martarella**, Martarella Consulting  
**Wayne Mayfield**, Office of Social and 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  
**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**, Center for Family Policy and Research  
**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  
**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 and Economic Data Analysis  
**Beth Ann Lang**, Childcare Aware of Missouri  
**Bill Niblick**, Missouri Department of Economic Development  
**Tina Senter**, Office of State Courts  
**Linda Surface**, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
**Craig Ward**, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

## **2012 Data Book Research and Analysis**

**John Blodgett**, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis  
**Tracy Greever-Rice**, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis  
**John Hagar**, 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 21 years, PFC has collaborated with local and state-

wide partners to advocate for public policies and practices in the areas of health, early care and 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 (Child Advocate Insider) 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 Campaign is a registered trademark of Partnership for Children. It cannot be used without consent of PFC.

### The Child Action Network

Sign up for the Partnership for Children listserv 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](http://pfc.org) to sign up for periodic e-updates and e-newsletters.



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Public Policy

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Communications Manager

**Cary Seem**, Business Manager

## Introduction

Executive Summary .....	6
Missouri Profile .....	8
Missouri Profile: Minority .....	9
County Ranks .....	10

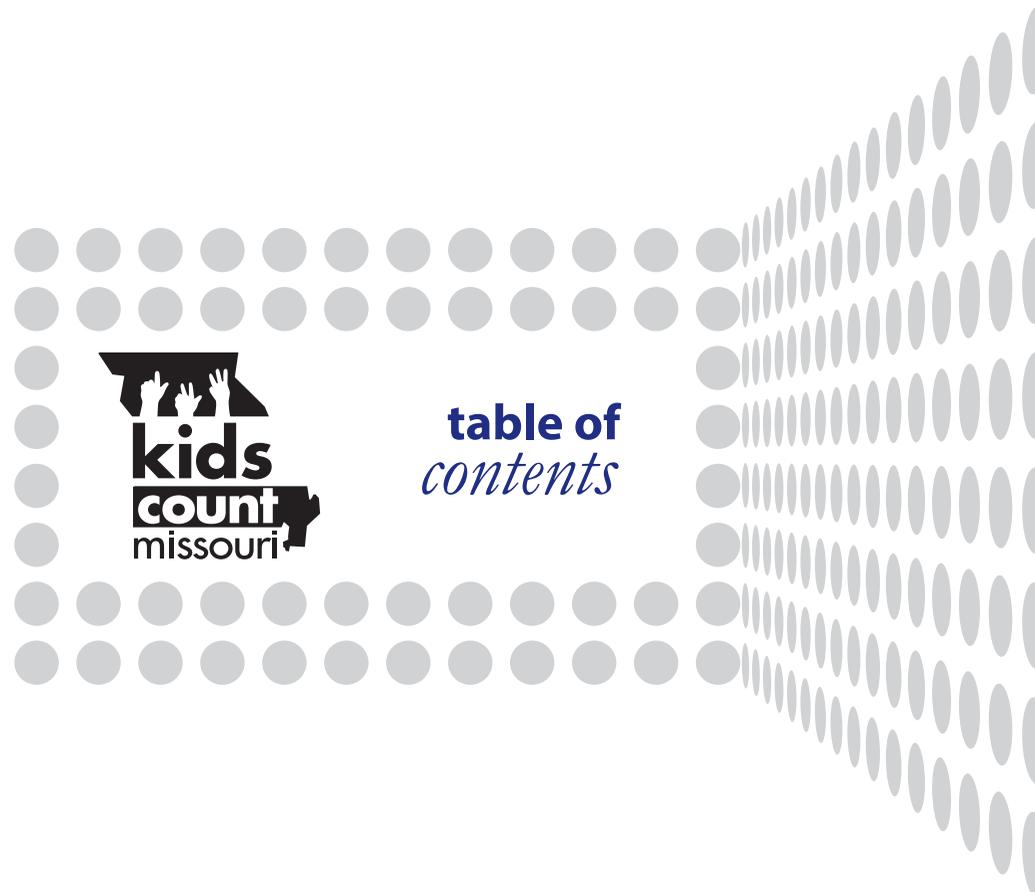
## Outcome Measures

<b>Economic Well-being</b> .....	17
Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch .....	18
Births to Mothers without a High School Diploma .....	19
Endnotes.....	23
<b>Health</b> .....	25
Low Birthweight Infants.....	26
Infant Mortality .....	27
Endnotes.....	30
<b>Child Protection and Safety</b> .....	33
Child Deaths, Ages 1-14.....	34
Child Abuse and Neglect.....	35
Out-of-Home Placement Entries.....	36
Violent Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19.....	38
Endnotes.....	39
<b>Education</b> .....	41
Annual High School Dropouts.....	43
Births to Teens, Ages 15-19 .....	45
Endnotes.....	47

## County Profiles

Understanding Your County's Data .....	52
County Profile Pages .....	54

<b>Data Notes and Sources</b> .....	171
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## Executive Summary

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2012 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.

To track changes over time, *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* provides the most currently available data (2011) as well as data from 2007 (the base year). (Please note that the exact years for which data are provided differ slightly between indicators and outcomes based on the nature of the data.) Between the base and current years, three *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* outcome measures worsened, five improved, and two remained unchanged. Measures that improved were infant mortality, child deaths, teen violent deaths, births to mothers without a high school diploma, and births to teens. The three measures that worsened were the number of students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements, which increased 14%, 4%, and 16%, respectively, between the base and current years. Two outcomes, the percent of low birthweight infants and high school dropouts, 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 2007 and 2011, Missouri, like the rest of the United States, experienced an economic downturn on a scale unprecedented since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although the national and state economies are slowly recovering, the “Great Recession” resulted in greater numbers 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 than before it occurred—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 in delivery of 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 WELL-BEING

*Students enrolled in free or reduced-price lunch program*, a proxy measure of child poverty, increased throughout the last 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 2011 the proportion of children rose to nearly half (47.7%). Children living in or close to poverty are at higher risk than other children for health, educational, and social problems.

In 2011, 15.9% of Missouri births were to a *mother without a high school diploma*. During the decade between 2001 and 2011, this rate trended downwards from nearly 20% in the early years of the decade to the current rate. Children who are born to undereducated parents face the highest odds of living in chronic poverty.

While the number of *children receiving cash assistance* decreased from 6.4% in 2000 to 4.7% in 2007, a substantial portion of this decrease was an intended effect of a policy shift in the cash assistance program for families with children that limits lifetime benefits to 60 months. Despite the severe recession, the rate stood at 4.9% for 2011. This modest increase from pre-recession levels suggests that families in poverty replaced cash assistance benefits with low-paying employment and a constellation of non-cash support programs. *Food stamp utilization* rose sharply over the past decade, from serving 22% of Missouri’s children in 2000, to 31% of children in 2007, and 38% in 2011.

Consistent with administrative record indicators such as the Food Stamp program and Free/Reduced School Lunch program, the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey estimates that the percent of Missouri *children living in poverty* increased from 15% in 2000 to 21.3% in 2010, more than 1 in 5 children statewide. From 2007 to 2011 *adult unemployment* increased 69%,

from 5.1% to 8.6%. More than one in four (25.5%) Missouri *children under 6* were living in poverty in 2010.

## MEASURES OF HEALTH

The percent of *low birthweight infants* has remained stable at 8.1 for almost the past decade. For the 5-year period (2007-2011) reported in *KIDS COUNT*, on average about 6,300 infants were born per year weighing less than five pounds.

In contrast, the *infant mortality* rate 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 2007 through 2011, over 2,700 Missouri babies died before their first birthday.

The number of *children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids* increased between 2007 and 2011 from 33.0% to 37.5%, a 14% jump, which reflects the more turbulent economic conditions facing Missouri families today.

## MEASURES OF CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY

The *child death* rate has improved steadily over the past decade. Despite these positive gains, on average, approximately 216 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Missouri between 2007 and 2011. *Violent deaths of teens* decreased between the periods 2002-2006 and 2007-2011 from a 5-year total of 1,355 to 1,257, respectively. Accidents, including automobile accidents, were responsible for 51% of deaths of teenagers between 15 and 19 years old.

The *child abuse and neglect* indicator measures the number of child abuse victims documented in reports that cited a “preponderance of evidence,” that child abuse or neglect 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 2011, 47,540 cases of child abuse and neglect were reported in

Missouri, or 33.7 cases per 1,000. The number and rate for 2011 were slightly higher than the data for 2007 (46,453 cases, 32.5 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. This indicator is expressed as a rate per 1,000 children. The rate of *out-of-home placement* entries increased from 3.7 in 2007 to 4.3 in 2011.

## MEASURES OF EDUCATION

The *high school dropout* rate has remained fairly constant and low. For 2007, the rate was 3.5%; the identical rate was found for 2011. Although this percentage may seem low, nearly 10,000 students dropped out of public high schools in the 2010-2011 school year, increasing their risks of economic insecurity and other negative outcomes.

Missouri’s *teen birth* rate declined 22% between 2007 and 2011, to 34.4 births per 1,000 teens—the lowest rate since 2000. In 2000, about 9,800 Missouri teens, ages 15-19, gave birth. In 2011, approximately 7,000 teens gave birth. Although the number of teens giving birth annually has fallen, thousands of teen mothers and their children remain 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
	Base Year	Current Year	Base Year	Current Year	
<b>Economic Well-being</b>					
Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch 2007/2011	364,980	414,360	41.7%	47.7%	✘
Births to mothers without h.s. diploma 2007/2011	14,942	12,067	18.2%	15.9%	✔
<b>Health</b>					
Low birthweight infants* 2002-2006/2007-2011	31,638	31,747	8.1%	8.1%	○
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) 2002-2006/2007-2011	3,013	2,738	7.7	6.9	✔
<b>Child Protection and Safety</b>					
Child deaths, ages 1-14* (per 100,000) 2002-2006/2007-2011	1,246	1,080	21.9	18.4	✔
Child abuse and neglect* (per 1,000) 2007/2011	46,453	47,540	32.5	33.7	✘
Out-of-home placement entries (per 1,000) 2007/2011	5,362	6,137	3.7	4.3	✘
Violent deaths, ages 15-19* (per 100,000) 2002-2006/2007-2011	1,355	1,257	65.4	59.1	✔
<b>Education</b>					
Annual high school dropouts 2007/2011	10,003	9,610	3.5%	3.5%	○
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000) 2007/2011	9,232	6,937	44.0	34.4	✔

### DEMOGRAPHIC

Child population	2007	1,431,346
	2011	1,412,121
Children as percent of total population	2007	24.3
	2011	23.5
Minority children	2007	22.9%
	2011	23.9%
Children with limited English proficiency	2007	18,971
	2011	21,539

### ECONOMIC

Children in poverty	2000	15.3%
	2010	21.3%
Children under 6 in poverty	2000	17.7%
	2010	25.5%
Children in single parent families	2000	24.3%
	2010	33.3%
Average annual wage/salary	2007	\$36,606
	2010	\$41,749
Adult unemployment	2007	5.1%
	2011	8.6%

### FAMILY SUPPORTS

Children receiving subsidized child care (per 1,000 in poverty)	2007	154.7
	2011	167.5
Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2007	99.2
	2012	108.2
Accredited child care facilities	2007	527
	2012	566
Children receiving cash assistance	2007	4.7%
	2011	4.9%
Children receiving food stamps	2007	30.9%
	2011	37.9%

### HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH

Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids	2007	33.0%
	2011	37.5%
Children receiving public SED mental health services	2007	17,127
	2011	26,755
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2007	54.6
	2011	44.3

## MISSOURI PROFILE: minority

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.

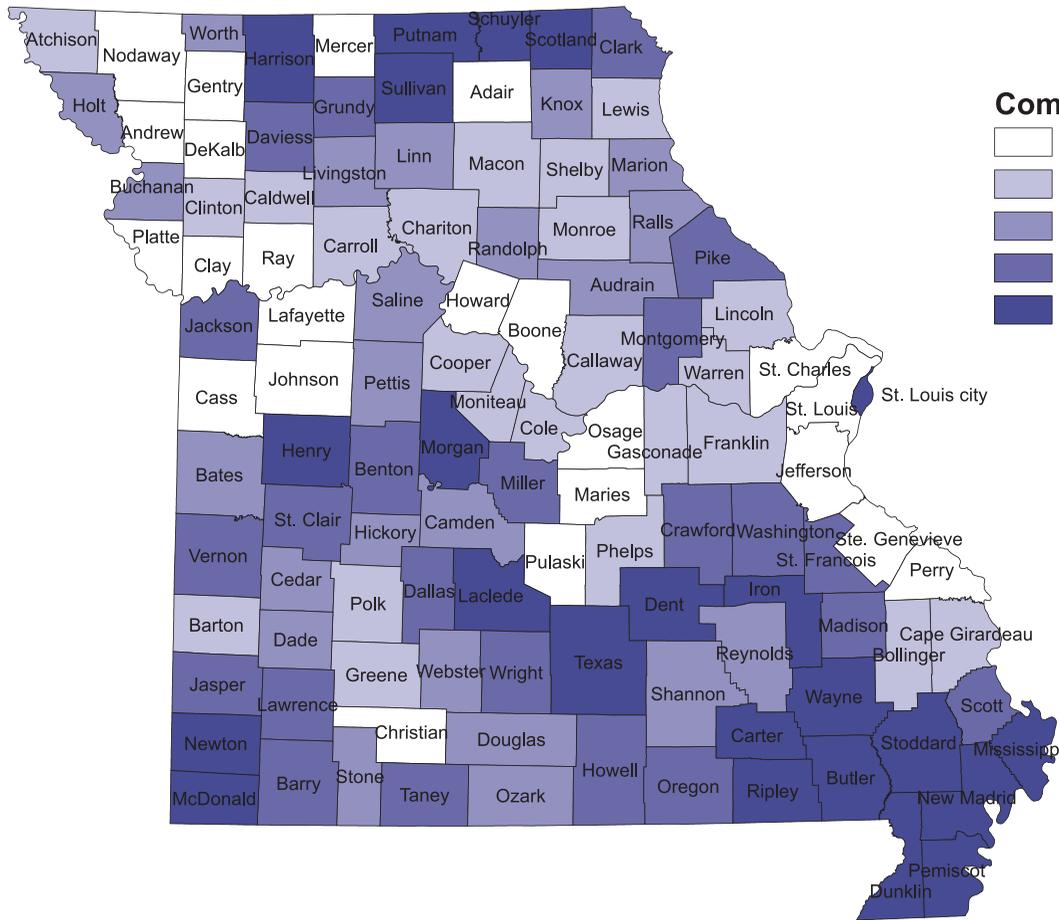
	Years	Nonminority			Minority		
		Base	Current	Trend	Base	Current	Trend
Births to mothers without high school diploma	2007/2011	17.2%	13.9%	√	22.4%	22.7%	X
Low birthweight infants	2002-2006 and 2007/2011	7.1%	7.0%	√	12.6%	12.2%	√
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	2002-2006 and 2007/2011	6.5	5.7	√	13.2	11.7	√
Child deaths, ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2002-2006 and 2007/2011	22.1	18.0	√	26.9	20.7	√
Child abuse and neglect (per 1,000)	2007/2011	31.7	34.5	X	34.3	31.1	√
Out-of-home placements (per 1,000)	2007/2011	3.5	4.0	X	4.7	4.6	√
Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19 (per 100,000)	2002-2006 and 2007/2011	63.3	58.5	√	73.5	83.2	X
Annual high school dropouts	2007/2011	3.2%	2.2%	√	5.9%	7.5%	X
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	2007/2011	39.0	30.5	√	78.7	46.2	√

The table above shows outcomes by minority status for the base and current years. *Minority* refers to individuals who are African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, a combination of races, and/or who identify as Hispanic; *nonminority* refers to non-Hispanic White individuals. In general, both groups have experienced more positive trends than negative ones. For minority Missourians, six outcomes improved and three worsened; for nonminority Missourians, seven outcomes improved and two worsened. However, the pattern of outcomes trends was different by minority status. For minorities, violent teen deaths, high school dropouts, and births to mothers without a high school diploma all increased, whereas the opposite trend was found for nonminority individuals. Nonminority children experienced increases in child abuse and neglect and out-of-home placements, both of which decreased for minority children.

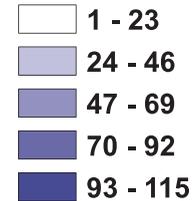
Despite the mostly positive trends for both groups, minority teens are far more likely to give birth and to have low birthweight infants compared to their nonminority peers. Nonminority mothers are more likely to have at least a high school diploma, compared to minority mothers.

# COUNTY RANKS: composite

## Kids Count in Missouri, 2012 Composite County Rankings



### Composite Rank



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

Source: Kids Count in Missouri, 2012

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

## COUNTY RANKS: economic well-being

### Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch rate rank (2011)

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

### Births to mothers without a high school diploma rate rank (2011)

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

# COUNTY RANKS: health

## Low birthweight infants rate rank (2007-2011)

1	Worth	40	Platte	81	Crawford
2	Gentry	40	Ralls	81	Sullivan
3	Cedar	40	Randolph	83	Saline
3	Scotland	44	Daviess	84	Cape Girardeau
5	Chariton	45	Dallas	84	Douglas
6	Maries	45	Iron	84	St. Francois
6	Reynolds	47	Benton	84	Shannon
6	Webster	47	Henry	88	Howard
9	Vernon	47	Jefferson	88	Ozark
10	Putnam	47	Macon	90	Bates
11	Knox	47	Newton	90	Dent
11	Linn	47	Ste. Genevieve	90	Jackson
11	Moniteau	47	Schuyler	93	Mercer
11	Morgan	54	Audrain	94	Carroll
11	Nodaway	54	Barry	95	Oregon
16	Clark	54	Cass	96	Shelby
16	Johnson	54	Franklin	96	Wayne
16	Warren	54	Lafayette	98	Pike
19	Atchison	54	Montgomery	98	St. Louis
20	Andrew	60	Dade	98	Stoddard
20	Camden	60	Greene	98	Washington
20	Harrison	60	St. Charles	102	Cooper
20	Polk	60	Wright	103	Butler
24	Christian	64	Perry	103	Scott
25	Bollinger	64	Phelps	105	Caldwell
25	Clinton	66	Boone	106	Holt
25	Grundy	66	DeKalb	107	Monroe
25	Laclede	66	Pulaski	107	Ripley
25	Livingston	69	Cole	109	Callaway
25	Miller	70	Buchanan	110	Carter
31	Barton	70	Howell	111	Dunklin
31	Clay	70	Marion	112	St. Louis City
31	Jasper	70	Ray	113	Mississippi
31	Lincoln	70	Stone	114	New Madrid
31	Pettis	75	Lawrence	115	Pemiscot
36	Gasconade	75	McDonald		
36	Lewis	75	Taney		
36	Madison	75	Texas		
36	Osage	79	Adair		
40	Hickory	79	St. Clair		

## Infant mortality rank (2007-2011)

1	Gentry	37	St. Charles	81	Benton
1	Knox	42	Howell	82	Buchanan
1	Maries	42	Ray	83	Cole
1	Monroe	44	Bates	83	Dunklin
5	Perry	44	Johnson	83	Iron
6	Macon	44	Lewis	86	Cooper
6	Stone	44	Livingston	87	Andrew
8	Atchison	48	Greene	87	Callaway
9	Howard	48	Webster	87	Laclede
10	Washington	50	Lawrence	90	Butler
11	Cass	50	McDonald	91	Henry
12	Pettis	52	Mississippi	92	Harrison
13	Bollinger	52	Sullivan	92	Vernon
13	Jasper	54	Douglas	94	Chariton
13	Polk	54	Moniteau	94	Saline
16	St. Clair	56	Ozark	96	Reynolds
16	Ste. Genevieve	56	Stoddard	97	Clinton
18	Christian	58	Cape Girardeau	98	Oregon
19	Warren	58	Franklin	99	Gasconade
20	Audrain	58	Lafayette	99	Morgan
20	Mercer	58	Lincoln	101	Cedar
20	Platte	58	Pulaski	101	Dent
23	Daviess	58	Taney	103	Pemiscot
24	Shelby	58	Wright	104	Marion
25	Phelps	65	Barry	105	Schuyler
26	Nodaway	65	St. Louis	105	Wayne
27	Camden	67	Clark	105	St. Louis City
27	Dade	67	Newton	108	Pike
29	Barton	69	Grundy	109	New Madrid
29	Boone	70	Jackson	110	Texas
29	Crawford	70	Osage	111	Holt
32	Carroll	72	Hickory	112	Ralls
32	DeKalb	72	Miller	113	Carter
34	Adair	72	Scott	114	Putnam
34	Dallas	75	Madison	115	Worth
34	Scotland	75	Ripley		
37	Caldwell	75	St. Francois		
37	Clay	78	Linn		
37	Jefferson	78	Montgomery		
37	Randolph	78	Shannon		

# COUNTY RANKS: child protection and safety

## Child deaths, ages 1-14, rate rank (2007-2011)

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

## Child abuse and neglect rate rank (2011)

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

# COUNTY RANKS: child protection and safety

## Out-of-home placement rate rank (2011)

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

## Violent deaths, ages 15-19, rate rank (2007-2011)

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

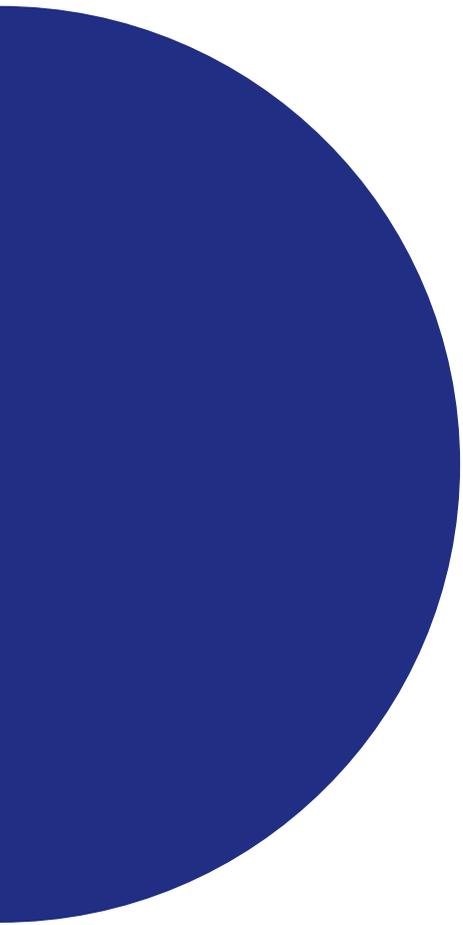
## COUNTY RANKS: education

### Annual high school dropout rank (2011)

1	Mercer	38	Moniteau	81	Lawrence
1	Shannon	38	Platte	81	Perry
1	Worth	38	St. Francois	83	Scotland
4	Morgan	44	Barton	84	Boone
5	Carroll	44	Chariton	84	Clark
5	Douglas	44	Polk	84	Clay
5	Oregon	44	Ste. Genevieve	84	Clinton
8	Schuyler	44	Shelby	88	Dent
9	Reynolds	49	Buchanan	88	Howell
9	Wright	49	Randolph	88	Ripley
11	Scott	49	St. Charles	91	Cape Girardeau
11	Warren	52	Caldwell	91	Dallas
13	Christian	52	Cedar	91	Henry
13	Daviess	52	Dade	91	Livingston
13	DeKalb	52	Knox	95	Cole
13	Gentry	52	Linn	96	Callaway
13	Hickory	52	Nodaway	96	Franklin
13	Lafayette	58	Barry	98	Harrison
13	Osage	58	Benton	98	Jasper
20	Bollinger	58	Cooper	98	Miller
20	Holt	58	Pulaski	98	St. Clair
20	Macon	62	Bates	98	Washington
20	Madison	62	Cass	103	Phelps
24	Grundy	62	Gasconade	104	Camden
24	Ozark	62	Laclede	105	Pike
24	Ray	62	Webster	106	Audrain
27	Pettis	67	Dunklin	106	Iron
28	McDonald	67	Jefferson	108	Sullivan
28	Putnam	67	Monroe	109	Pemiscot
28	Saline	70	Andrew	110	Crawford
31	Atchison	70	Greene	111	Ralls
31	Carter	70	Lincoln	112	Vernon
31	Texas	70	Maries	113	Jackson
31	Wayne	70	Mississippi	114	Butler
35	Johnson	75	Stoddard	115	St. Louis City
35	Lewis	76	Montgomery		
35	New Madrid	76	Newton		
38	Adair	76	St. Louis		
38	Howard	76	Stone		
38	Marion	76	Taney		

### Birth to teens, ages 15-19, rate rank (2011)

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





**PERSPECTIVE:**  
*economic well-being*

## PERSPECTIVE: economic well-being

A family's economic well-being 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, enrollment in federal assistance programs, and child poverty, in order to provide a full picture of how our children are faring. Because 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.<sup>1</sup> During most of the first decade of the 21st century, however, 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 from 19% to 22% between 2005 and 2010, which translated to 2 million additional children living in poverty.<sup>2</sup> In Missouri, the child poverty rate

increased from 19% to 21% percent between 2005 and 2010.

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

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

In addition, seven other economic well-being indicators are reported:\*

- Children in poverty
- Children under 6 in poverty
- Children in single-parent families
- Average annual wage/salary
- Adult unemployment
- Children receiving cash assistance
- Children receiving food stamps (SNAP)

For the most part, the economic outlook for the children and families in Missouri has been declining. Since 2007, the percentage of students enrolled in the free/reduced-price lunch program increased by 14%; in 2011; nearly half of Missouri's children qualified for the program. The percentage of children receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) increased 23% over the same time period. Since 2000, the percentage of children in poverty increased 39%, the percentage of children under 6 in poverty has burgeoned by 44%, and the percentage of children in single-parent families has gone up over 37%. Not all trends related to economic security are in decline, however; since 2007 progress has been made on the percentage of births to mothers without a high school diploma (a decrease of 18%).

\*In past data books, another indicator, *parents paying child support in the state system*, has been included in this section. Due to changes in how out-of-state orders are processed, and other data system changes that have affected county-level data for this indicator, it will be closely scrutinized and may appear again in next year's data book.

### Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch

#### Definition

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

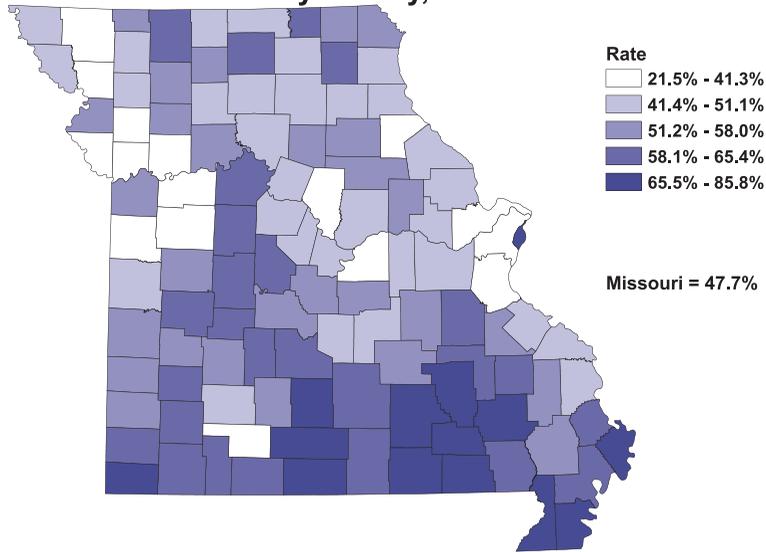
#### Significance

Participation in the free/reduced-price 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 greater risk for delays in cognitive development and learning problems.

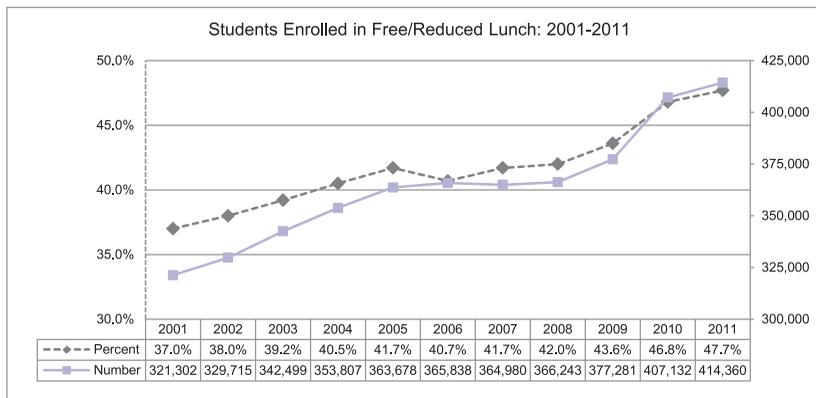
#### State Findings

For the 2010-11 school year, nearly half of Missouri public school students (47.7%) were enrolled in the free/reduced-price lunch program. This percentage has been trending steadily upward over time. In 2000-01, 36.6% of children were enrolled in the program; in 2006-07, 41.7% were enrolled.

## Percent Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch by County, 2011



Source: Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, 2012  
 Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)  
 Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



## County Findings

The counties with the highest participation rates in 2010-11, which suggest 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, (85.8%), Shannon (79.2%), Pemiscot (71.7%), Douglas (71.0%), Ripley (70.8%), Mississippi (70.3%), and Dunklin (70.2%). The counties with the lowest rate, all at or below 37%, were St. Charles, Platte, Clay, Andrew, Osage, Cass, and Jefferson.

## 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 years of education on their child's birth certificate.

### Significance

Children born to mothers with fewer than 12 years of education face increased 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.<sup>3</sup>

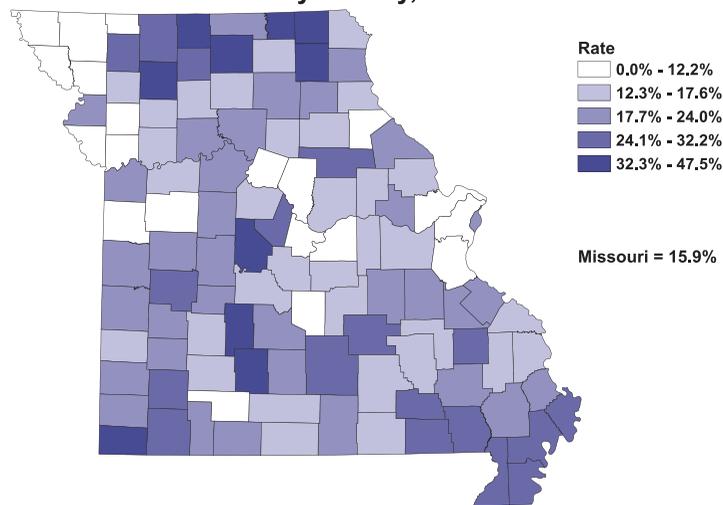
## State Findings

In 2011, 15.9% of births were to women without a high school diploma, which was a decrease from 18.2% of births in 2007. Of the 12,067 live births to women without a high school diploma in 2011, 32.4% were to racial and/or ethnic minority mothers and 67.6% were to nonminority mothers.

## County Findings

In 11 counties—Worth, St. Charles, Platte, Howard, Johnson, Nodaway, Pulaski, Atchison, St. Louis, Ralls, and Clay—less 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, Knox, Morgan, Daviess, Sullivan, Dallas, Mercer, Webster, McDonald, and Schuyler. In absolute numbers, Jackson County, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County collectively accounted for 34% of Missouri's total births to mothers without a high school diploma.

## Percent of Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas by County, 2011



Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)   
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013

## 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. In 2010, the current year used for this indicator in this data book, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$22,113. For 2012, the federal poverty threshold for the same family was \$23,050.

### Significance

Nationally, over one in five children (22%) lived in families with incomes below the poverty threshold in 2011.<sup>4</sup> However, most families need an income of at least double the poverty threshold (i.e., 200%) 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 was 45% in 2011.<sup>5</sup>

### State Findings

In 2010, 21.3% 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 this increased to 18.3%. In Missouri's largest cities, the percentage of children living in poverty is particularly high: 44.1% in Springfield, 41.8% in St. Louis City, and 29.3% in Kansas City.<sup>6</sup>

### County Findings

In 2010, seven counties had at least 40% of children living in poverty: Hickory, Pemiscot, Iron, St. Louis City, Carter, Shannon, and Polk. The counties with the lowest percentage of children living in poverty—all below 14%—were St. Charles, Lafayette, Platte, Osage, Clay, Ray, Gasconade, and DeKalb.

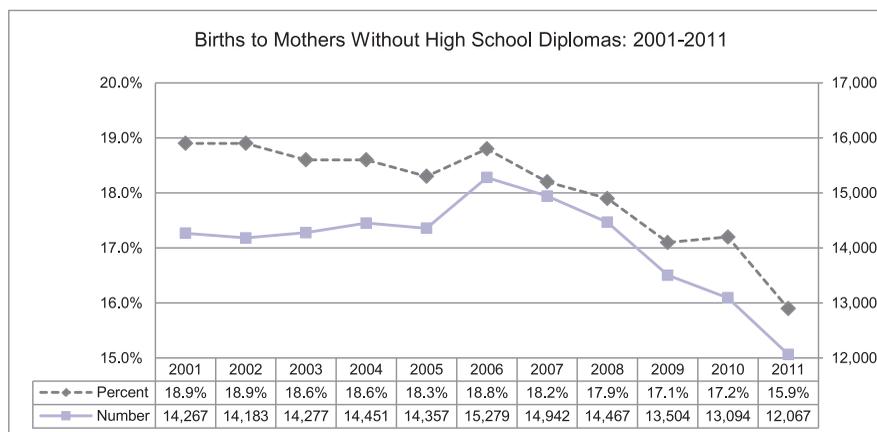
## Children under 6 in Poverty

### 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 an increased likelihood of children experiencing poverty at a young age, including the relative youth of parents (which limits earning potential), as well as the need for child care (parents either pay for it or stay at home to take care of young children). Poverty can interfere with children's development at all ages, but its developmental effects are more pervasive and persistent for children who experience economic hardship when very young.

### State Findings

In 2010, the proportion of children under 6 living in poverty was 25.5%. This figure has been trending upward, from 17.7% in 2000 to 22% in 2007.

### County Findings

In 2010, five counties had more than 50% of children under 6 living in poverty: Pemiscot, Iron, Dunklin, Ozark, and Hickory. Another six counties had more than 45% of children under 6 living in poverty: Shannon, Saline, New Madrid, Dallas, Wright, and Texas. Seven counties had less than 14% of children

under six in poverty: Lafayette, St. Charles, Mercer, Perry, Clay, Osage, and Platte.

## Children in Single-Parent Families

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the percent of related children under 18 who live in families headed by a person without a spouse present in the home.

### Significance

In 2010, over 24 million children lived in single-parent families across the nation.<sup>7</sup> The relationship between poverty and family structure is shown by the fact that more children living in single-parent families were in poverty (37%) compared to children living in married-couple families (9%).<sup>8</sup>

Two-parent families tend to have higher household incomes and more assets than single-parent families; as a result, single parents may find it more challenging to maintain high quality home and out-of-home experiences for their children.<sup>9</sup> In addition, economic hardship may increase single

parents' psychological distress and decrease sensitive caregiving.<sup>10</sup> These factors can lead to negative effects on children's cognitive and social development and impact their long-term academic achievement.<sup>11</sup>

### State Findings

In 2010, one third of Missouri children—33.3%—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 2010: St. Louis City (62.5%), Pemiscot (57.1%), and Mississippi (53.6%). Another six counties had more than 40% of children living with single-parents: Dunklin, New Madrid, Jackson, Buchanan, Crawford, and Randolph. The counties with the lowest percentage of children living in single-parent families (less than 20%) were Scotland, Christian, Daviess, Schuyler, Chariton, Cedar, Osage, and Knox.

## 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 children and families over time.

### State Findings

In 2010, the average annual wage/salary for Missourians was \$41,749. This indicator has increased steadily over time. In 2007, the average annual wage/salary was \$39,500.

### County Findings

Seven counties had an average annual wage/salary higher than \$40,000 in 2010: St. Louis City, St. Louis, Jackson, Clay, Pulaski, Mercer, and Platte. The counties with the lowest average annual wage/salary in 2010, all below \$25,000, were Shannon, Worth, Ozark, Clark, Howard, and Hickory.

## 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 employment, 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, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program) to help make ends meet.

### State Findings

The recent recession has had a significant impact on unemployment rates throughout Missouri. In 2007, the state unemployment rate was 5.1%. For 2011, Missouri's unemployment rate was 8.6%, a

69% increase from what it was in 2007.

### County Findings

In 2011, nine counties had unemployment rates below 6.5%: Boone, Worth, Perry, Knox, Osage, Andrew, Scotland, Cole, and Mercer. Twenty-seven counties (nearly a quarter of Missouri's counties) had unemployment rates of at least 10%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates in 2010 (all greater than 11%) were Shannon, Reynolds, Hickory, Taney, Washington, Stone, St. Louis City, Morgan, Miller, and Laclede.

## Children Receiving Cash Assistance

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the percentage of children receiving cash assistance under 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.

### State Findings

In 2011, 4.9% of children were in families receiving cash assistance, a very slight increase over the 2010 figure of 4.8%. The rate has remained surprisingly stable since 2007, when it was 4.7%, despite the economic downturn. Because other indices of poverty have increased during the downturn, these stable figures suggest that there might be other barriers to accessing this service besides eligibility.

### County Findings

The counties with the highest percentage of children receiving cash assistance in 2011 (all over 10%) were St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Dunklin, and Mississippi. The counties with the lowest percentage of children receiving cash assistance (all below 2%) were Worth, St. Charles, Osage, Gentry, Schuyler, Atchison, Nodaway, Knox, and Putnam.

## Children Receiving Food Stamps

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the percentage of children receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.

### Significance

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

### State Findings

In 2011, nearly two in five children (37.9%) received SNAP. This figure has increased 23% from the 2007 rate of 30.9%. This increase demonstrates the impact of the recent recession on Missouri's children and families.

### County Findings

In 26 counties, at least 50% of the children received SNAP in 2011. In 2007, only 10 counties surpassed the 50% benchmark, another indica-

tion of the recent economic downturn. The counties with the highest percentage of children receiving SNAP in 2011 (all at or higher than 60%) were St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Mississippi, Ripley, and Washington. The counties with the lowest percentage of children in SNAP (all below 25%) in 2011 were St. Charles, Platte, Osage, Nodaway, Andrew, Scotland, and Worth.

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<sup>1</sup>The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). *2010 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved January 11, 2013, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2010/OnlineBooks/2010DataBook.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *2012 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved January 9, 2013, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2012/OnlineBooks/Kidscount2012DataBookFullReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>National Center for Children in Poverty. (2009). *Ten important questions about child poverty and family economic hardship*. Retrieved February 2, 2013, from [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_829.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_829.html)

<sup>4</sup>National Center for Children in Poverty. (2012). *Basic facts about low-income children. 2011: Children under age 18*. Retrieved January 29, 2013, from [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_1074.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_1074.html)

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>Missouri Census Data Center. (n.d.). *American community survey profile report, 2011*.

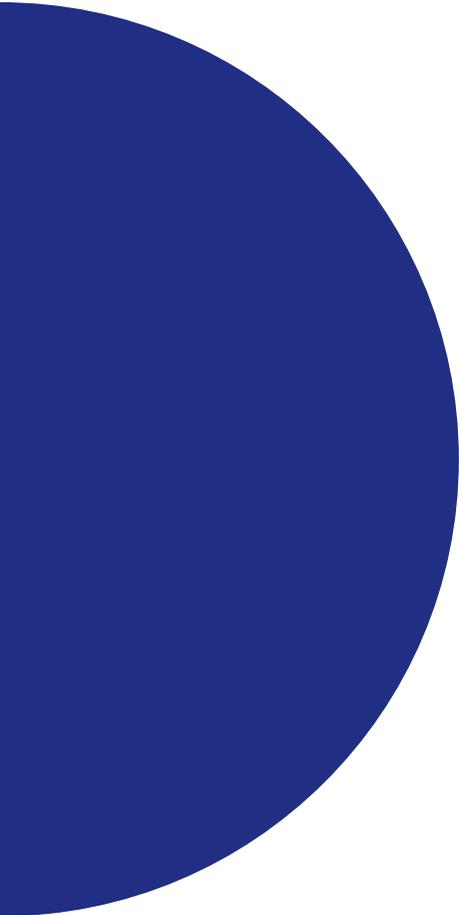
<sup>7</sup>The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *2012 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved January 29, 2013, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2012/OnlineBooks/Kidscount2012DataBookFullReport.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>Missouri Census Data Center. (n.d.). *American community survey profile report, 2011*.

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

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

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*





**PERSPECTIVE:**  
*health*

## PERSPECTIVE: health

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

The majority of Missouri children access health coverage through private insurance and/or MO HealthNet for Kids, which is Missouri's public health insurance program for low-income children who do not have access to other health coverage. A portion of Missouri's children remain without healthcare coverage, including many who are eligible for coverage.

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

- Low birthweight infants
- Infant mortality

In addition, two other health indicators are reported:\*

- Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids
- Children receiving public mental health services for serious emotional disorders (SED)

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 11.6% between the baseline time period 2002-2006 and the period 2007-2011, while the rate of low birthweight infants remained the same during these time periods. Changes in the other two 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, changes in funding priorities, or administrative changes in how data are tracked. With this in mind, the percentage of children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids increased 13.6% between 2007 and 2011. In the same time period, the number of children who received public mental health services for SED increased 56.2%.

\*In past data books, another indicator, *children with elevated blood lead levels*, has been included in this section. Given that this indicator has remained stable and, fortunately, very close to zero over the past several years, it has relatively little utility as a contextual indicator of child well-being. Accordingly, it has been dropped from the data book.

### Low Birthweight 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 birthweight*.

#### Significance

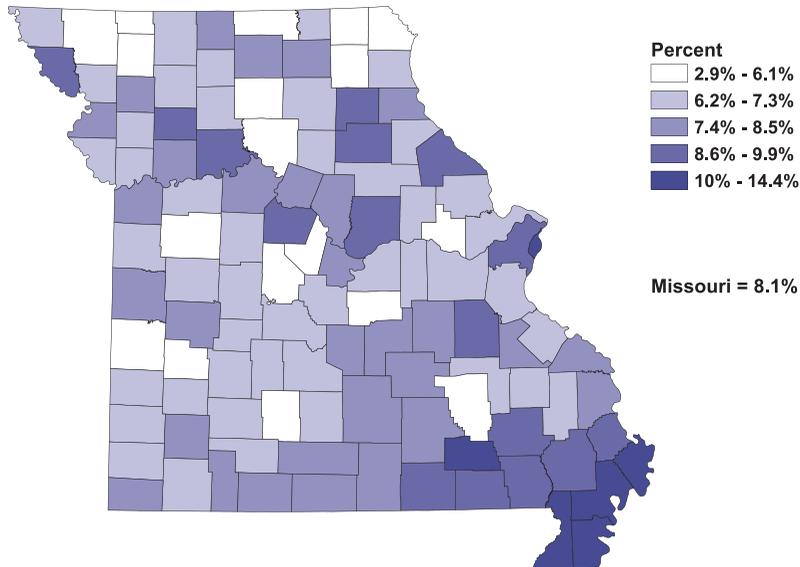
Infants born with low birthweights are at high risk for adverse outcomes and developmental problems throughout their lives. Compared to normal birthweight infants, they are more likely to have low oxygen levels at birth, problems maintain-

ing 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 birthweight may have a difficult time "catching up" in physical growth compared to normal birthweight peers. In general, the smaller the baby at birth, the higher his or her risk for complications.<sup>1</sup>

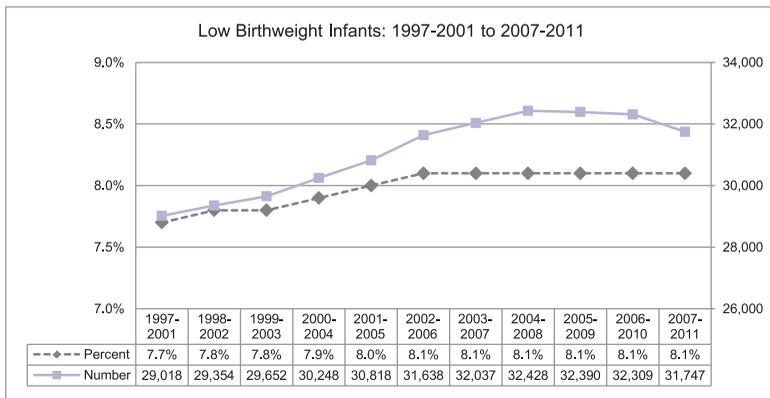
There are two main reasons why a baby may be born with a low birthweight: premature birth and fetal growth restriction. Growth-restricted babies may be born full-term, but are underweight because they did not grow well during pregnancy due to problems in the uterus, the mother's health, or birth defects. Premature birth occurs when a baby is born before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. About 67% of low birthweight babies are premature.<sup>2</sup>

Early induction of labor and cesarean-section (c-section) delivery account for about 25% of preterm births nationally.<sup>3</sup> Often these cases are due to pregnancy complications or health problems affecting the mother or fetus.

## Percent Low Birthweight Infants by County, 2007-2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
 Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)  
 Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



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

### State Findings

The percent of low birthweight infants has been quite stable over the past several years. It was 8.1% during the five-year period from 2002-2006 and has remained unchanged for all five-year periods through the most recent one, 2007-2011. Between 2007 and 2011, 31,746 low birthweight infants were born in Missouri.

In 2011, 76,069 live births occurred in Missouri; 6,015 infants (7.9%) were low birthweight. The low birthweight rate differs considerably by minority status. In 2011, for minority infants the rate was 12.1%, whereas the rate for nonminority infants was 6.7%.

### County Findings

Between 2007 and 2011, the counties with the highest rates of low birthweight infants (all over 10%) were Pemiscot, New Madrid, Mississippi, St. Louis City, Dunklin, and Carter.

During the same time period, the counties with the lowest rates, all below 6%, were Worth, Gentry, Cedar, Scotland, Chariton, Maries,

Reynolds, Webster, Vernon, and Putnam.

## Infant Mortality

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the number of infants 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 indicator 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, socioeconomic conditions, and public health practices. Nationally, the leading causes of infant death are congenital malformations (physical defects present at birth), disorders related to short gestation or low birthweight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).<sup>5</sup>

The U.S. infant mortality rate was 6.1 in 2011.<sup>6</sup> However, this rate differs greatly by race and ethnicity. In 2011, the group with the highest rate was African American infants

(11.4), followed by Hispanic infants (5.3), and White infants (5.1).<sup>7</sup>

The infant mortality rate goes beyond health considerations to encompass economic 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 nutrition, health care, or supervision.

### State 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 2002-2006 to 6.9 deaths per 1,000 children during the period 2007-2011.

Based on the *Missouri Child Fatality Review Program Annual Report for 2011*, 539 infants under the age of one died in Missouri. Of these, 423 infant deaths were due to illness/natural causes (not including SIDS). Prematurity accounted for 59% of all illness/natural-cause deaths, and congenital anomalies accounted for 20%. Of the deaths due to illness/natural causes, 61% occurred within the first two days of life. Other primary causes of infant death, and the number associated with them,

include: SIDS, 9; unintentional suffocation, 73; and child abuse, 7. Nineteen cases were classified as undetermined.

### County Findings

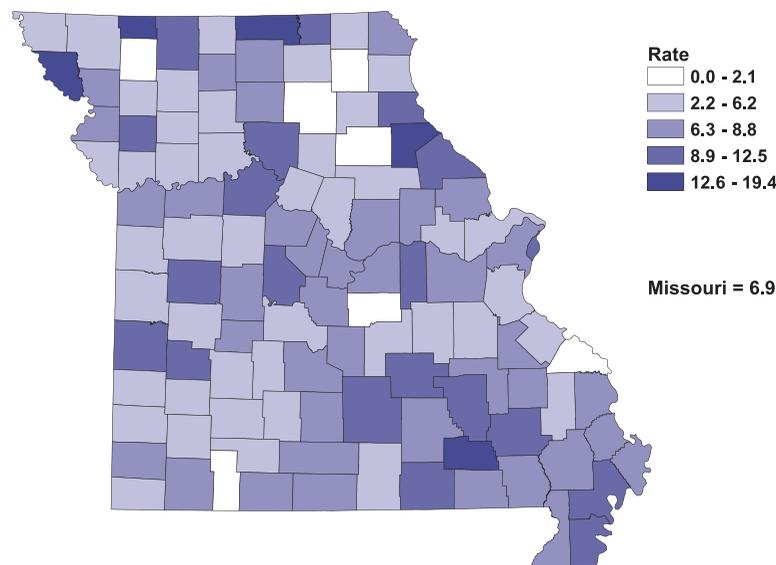
Gentry, Knox, Maries, and Monroe counties had the lowest infant mortality rate between 2007 and 2011, with no infant deaths. The counties with the highest infant mortality rates during the same period were Worth, Putnam, Carter, Ralls, Holt, and Texas. These counties had rates of 12.5 or higher. However, because of the extremely low number of deaths in most counties, even over a five-year period, county infant mortality rates should be interpreted with caution—particularly in low-population areas with relatively few infant births.

## Children Enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids

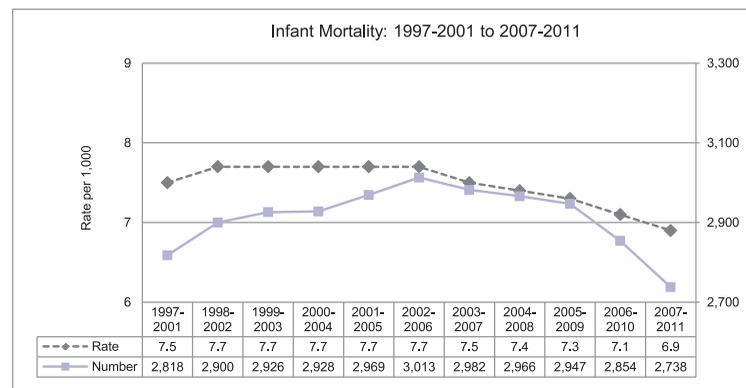
### Definition

*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.

## Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births by County, 2007-2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)A  
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



## Significance

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

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% 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

MO HealthNet for Kids Eligibility Information <sup>8</sup>	
Covered Populations	Income Guidelines
Children (non-SCHIP)	
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 (SCHIP)	< 300% of federal poverty threshold

status, whose family income falls within certain guidelines.

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 (SCHIP) covers

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.

## State Findings

In Missouri, 37.5% of children (approximately 530,000) were enrolled in MO HealthNet in 2011, an increase of 0.6 percentage points over the 2010 figure of 36.9%. This figure has been increasing since 2007, when it was 33.0%.

## County Findings

In 2011, the counties with the highest percentage of children enrolled in MO HealthNet (all above 60%) were St. Louis City, Pemiscot, Ripley, Douglas, Mississippi, Dunklin, and Oregon. The counties with the lowest percentage in 2011, all below 24%, were St. Charles, Andrew, Platte, Osage, Nodaway, and Clay.

## Children Receiving Public SED Mental Health Services

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the number of children receiving mental health services for serious emotional dis-

orders (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 many of the same mental illnesses that afflict adults. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14.<sup>9</sup> 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 quickly 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 many disorders. Once mental illness develops, it becomes a regular part of a child’s behavior 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 kind of mental disability that appear 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.<sup>10</sup>

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

### State Findings

Due to recent administrative changes in how these services are tracked within the divisions of mental health, it is difficult to compare numbers across years. In 2011, 26,755 children received

mental health services for SED through the Missouri Department of Mental Health, an increase from the 2007 figure of 17,127. This increase is mostly due to the aforementioned changes in how services were tracked. In 2011, the majority of services (68%) of services were provided to children under 15.

### County Findings

In 2011, 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, Jasper, Jefferson, Buchanan, Clay, and Boone. Together, these counties accounted for 54% of cases involving children receiving services for SED. The counties with the fewest children receiving services for SED, all with fewer than 16 cases, were Reynolds, Hickory, Holt, Knox, Howard, Ozark, and Putnam.



<sup>1</sup> March of Dimes. (2008). *Medical resources: Low birthweight*. Retrieved January 23, 2013, from [http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/medicalresources\\_low-birthweight.html](http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/medicalresources_low-birthweight.html)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> March of Dimes. (2010). *Your premature baby*. Retrieved January 28, 2013, from [http://www.marchofdimes.com/baby/premature\\_in-depth.html#](http://www.marchofdimes.com/baby/premature_in-depth.html#)

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Matthews, T. & MacDorman, M. (2011). Infant Mortality Statistics from 2007 Period Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Sets. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 59, no. 6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr59/nvsr59\\_06.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr59/nvsr59_06.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Hoyert, D., Xu, J. (2012) Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 61, no 6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved January 31, 2013, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/deaths.htm>

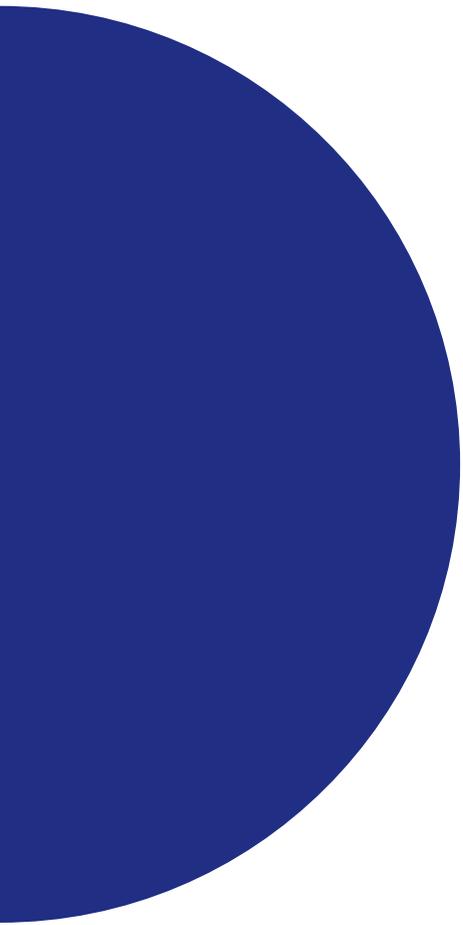
<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. (2008). *MO HealthNet for kids*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from <http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/mchild.htm>

<sup>9</sup> National Institute of Mental Health. (2009). *Treatment of children with mental illness*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/treatment-of-children-with-mental-illness-fact-sheet/nimh-treatment-children-mental-illness-faq.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Comprehensive Psychiatric Services. (n.d.). *Childhood mental illnesses*. Retrieved February 4, 2013, from <http://dmh.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 5 and 14.<sup>1</sup> Most injuries and injury-related 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

*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, Ages 1-14

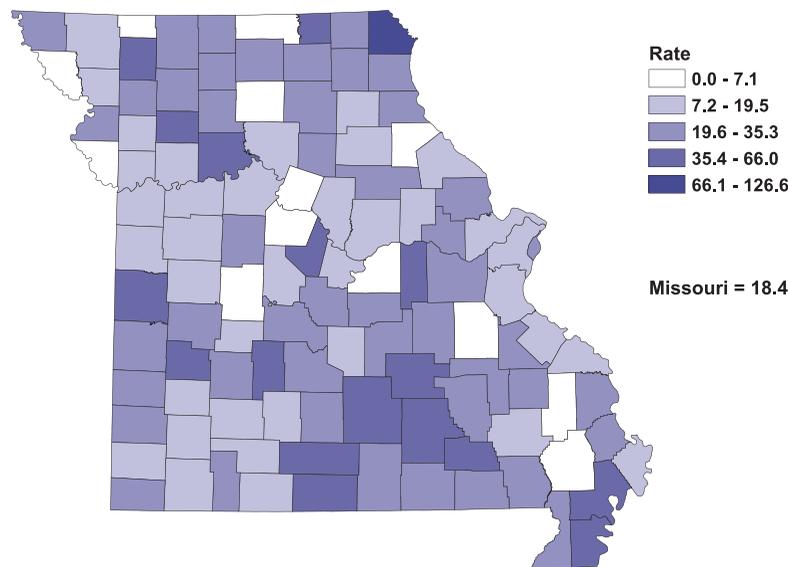
#### Definition

*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.

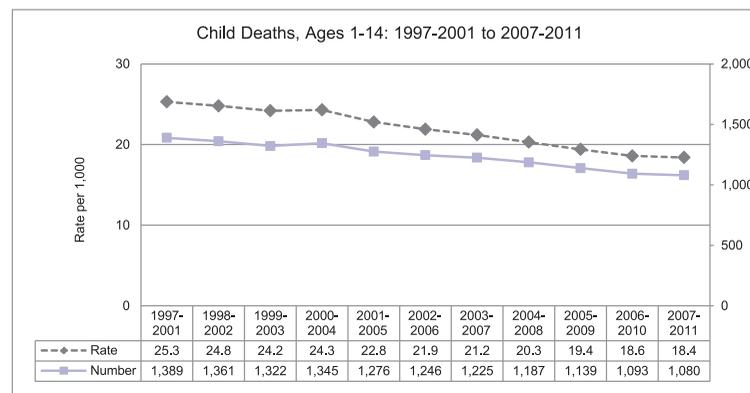
#### Significance

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 (1-14), accidents

### Child Deaths Ages 1-14 per 100,000 by County, 2007-2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)   
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



are the leading cause of death, with automobile accidents accounting for 31% of deaths in 2009.<sup>5</sup>

### State Findings

For the current five-year period of 2007-2011, the child death rate was 18.4, a decline from the figure of 21.9 for 2002-2006. For the 2007-2011 period, 1,080 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. County rates should be interpreted with caution.

Between 2007-2011, nine Missouri counties experienced no child deaths: Bollinger, Holt, Howard, Linn, Putnam, Ralls, Stoddard, and Worth. The counties with the highest rates of child death during the same period, all above 50 deaths per 100,000 children, were Clark, Carter, Gentry, Carroll, Dent, and Cedar.

## Child Abuse and Neglect

### Definition

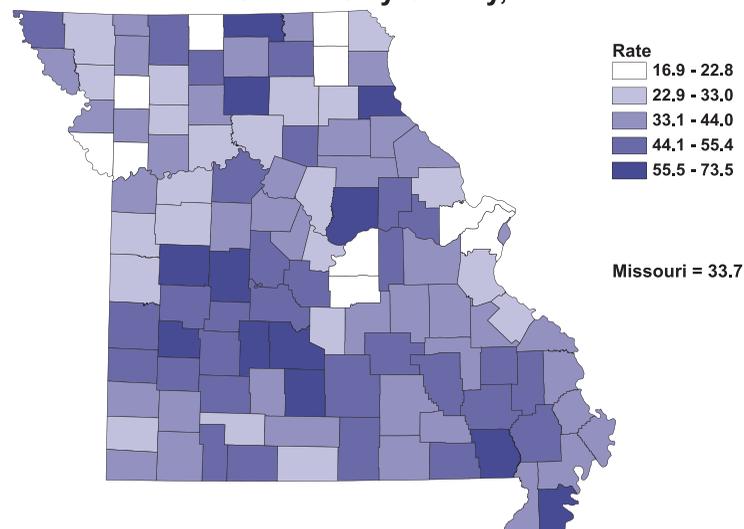
*KIDS COUNT* tracks the number of child abuse victims from reports classified as “preponderance of evidence” that indicates child abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, this outcome includes the number of child abuse victims that receive family assessments. The rate is expressed per 1,000 children.

### Significance

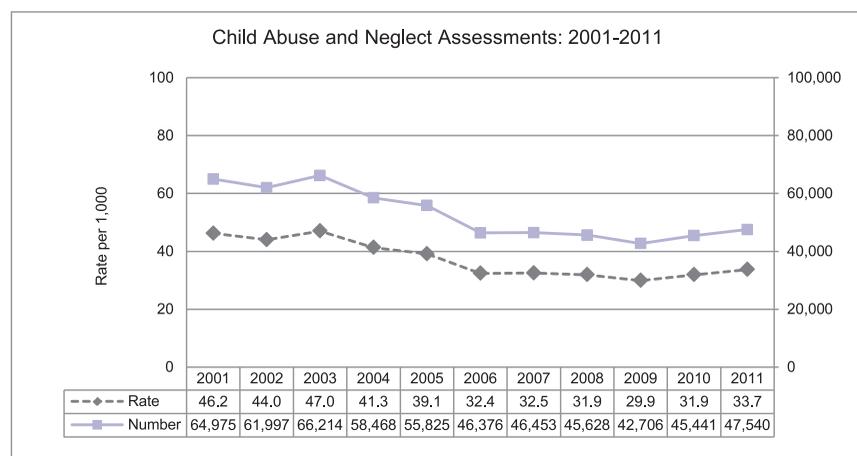
This indicator provides information about the scale of neglectful family environments in a given geographic region. In the United States, about 680,000 children were determined to be victims of child abuse and neglect during 2011.<sup>6</sup> However, the true incidence of maltreatment is estimated to 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)

## Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments per 1,000 Under 18 by County, 2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)A  
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



- 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)<sup>7</sup>

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 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.<sup>8</sup> Young children and children with disabilities are more likely to be abused or neglected, and their parents are often the perpetrators.

### State Findings

In 2011, the child abuse and neglect rate was 33.7 (per 1,000 children). This is a slight increase from the 2007 rate of 32.5.

In 2011, the Children’s Division (Missouri Department of Social Services) received 47,540 reports of child abuse and neglect, involving 90,709 children. Of these, 4,294

reports (6,092 children) were substantiated, meaning child abuse or neglect had occurred, while 27,701 reports (41,448 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 27,701 reports resulting in a family assessment, 3,883 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 4,294. Of the substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect in 2011, 1,411 were classified as physical abuse; 2,066 as neglect; 1,191 as sexual maltreatment; 154 as emotional maltreatment; 154 as medical neglect; and 57 as educational neglect.

In 2011, there were 29 child abuse or neglect fatalities in Missouri, a decrease from the 46 deaths in 2007.

### County Findings

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

2011, the counties with the lowest rates of child abuse and neglect—all less than 20.0 per 1,000 children—were Platte, Scotland, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Mercer. Nine counties had rates above 60.0 per 1,000 children: Pemiscot, Henry, Laclede, Cedar, Linn, Butler, Marion, Wright, and Putnam.

## Out-of-Home Placement Entries

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the number of entries into the Missouri Children’s Division 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.

### Significance

This indicator is as a reflection of the number of children whose lives are significantly disrupted due to a harmful situation in their homes, thus providing information on the severity of neglectful family environments for children. Many of the children who are removed from their homes are experiencing profound abuse, neglect, or disruption. These children are considered to be 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.

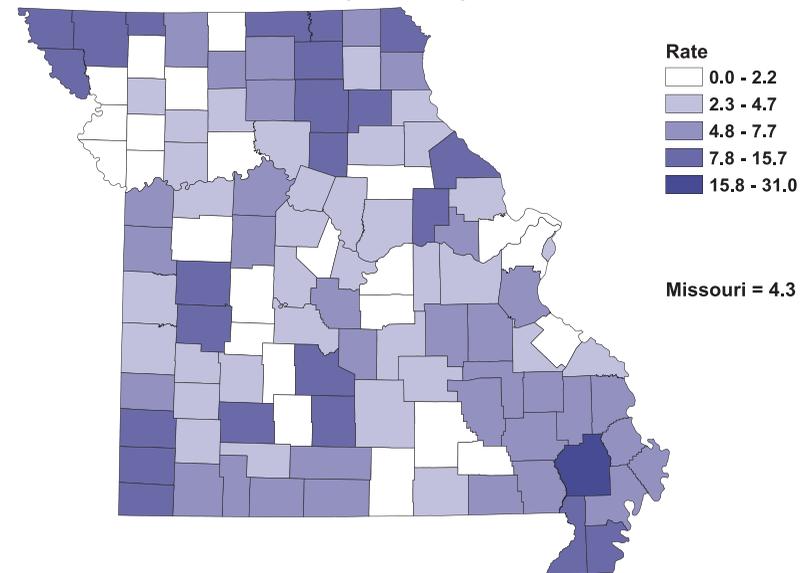
Unfortunately, when children are removed from their homes, they often lose contact with other family members and friends, go through multiple placements, and have overlooked physical health, men-

tal 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.

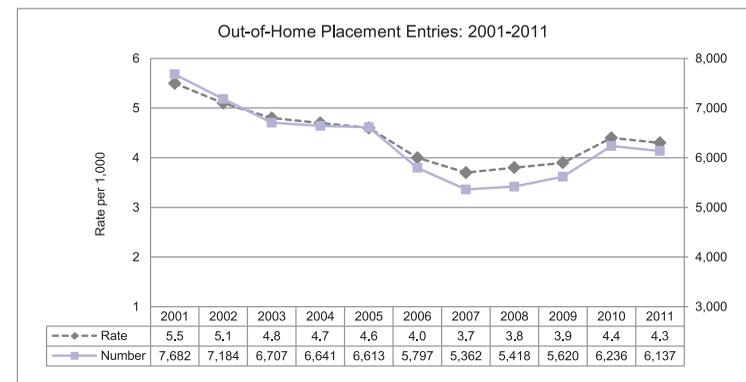
Children who are placed in kinship/relative care (non-parental family members raising children to whom they are related) experience more stability than children in other forms of foster care.<sup>9</sup>

- 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%).

## Out-of-Home Placements per 1,000 Children Under 18 by County, 2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)   
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



- 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.

- Children in kinship care have greater positive perceptions of their placements, and as a result, have fewer behavioral problems.

### State Findings

In 2011, the out-of-home placement rate was 4.3 (per 1,000 children), an increase from the 3.7 rate for 2007. There were 6,137 out-of-home placement entries in 2011.

### County Findings

In 2011, five counties had no out-of-home placement entries: Andrew, Carroll, Carter, Mercer, and Shannon. The counties with the highest rates, all above 10.0 per 1,000 children, were Stoddard, Atchison, Clark, Henry, Newton, Nodaway, Dunklin, Holt, Shelby, and Montgomery.

## Violent Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19

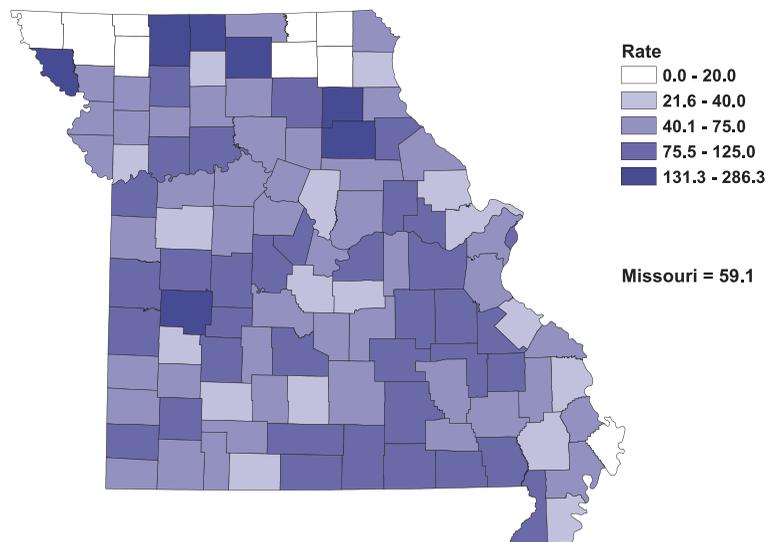
### Definition

*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.

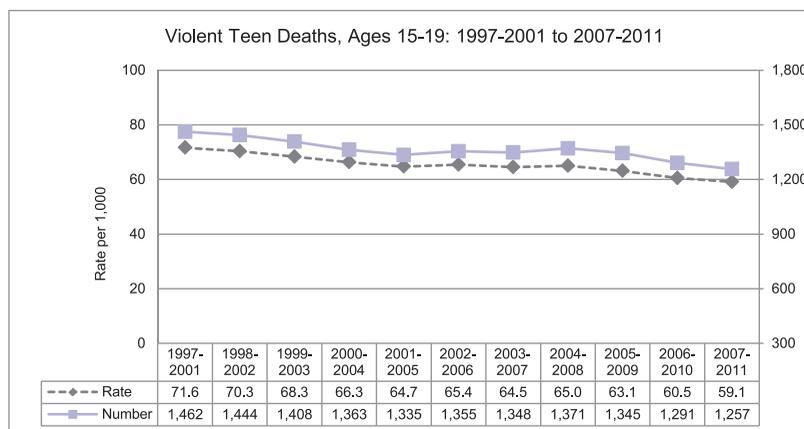
### Significance

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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> Nationally, the three leading causes of teen deaths are motor vehicle accidents, homicides, and suicides, all of which are preventable.<sup>12</sup> For example, 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.<sup>13</sup>

## Violent Deaths per 100,000 Teens Ages 15-19 by County, 2007-2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)   
Map Created On: 16 Jan 2013



## State Findings

For the years 2007-2011, 1,257 teens ages 15 to 19 died in Missouri. For those years, the rate of teen violent death was 59.1 per 100,000 teens ages 15 to 19. This is a decrease from 65.4 for the 2002-2006 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. County rates should be interpreted with caution. However, seven Missouri counties experienced no violent teen deaths of those 15 to 19 years old during the 2007-2011 time period: Atchison, Gentry, Knox, Mississippi, Schuyler, Scotland, and Worth. The counties with the highest violent teen death rate, all over 130 per 100,000 teen ages 15 to 19, were Holt, Mercer, Harrison, Shelby, Sullivan, St. Clair, and Monroe.

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<sup>1</sup> ChildStats.gov. (2012). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2012*. Retrieved January 14, 2013, from <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/phenviro7.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Packard Foundation. (2000). Unintentional injuries in childhood: Analysis and Recommendations. *Future of Children*, 10(1), 4-22.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health. (2009). History of childhood maltreatment linked to higher rates of unemployment, poverty. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/history-of-childhood-maltreatment-linked-to-higher-rates-of-unemployment-poverty.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *2012 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved January 29, 2013, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2012/OnlineBooks/KidsCounty-2012DatBookFullReport.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Admin-

istration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2012). *Child maltreatment 2011*. Retrieved January 25, 2013, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Wang, C. T., & Holton, J. (2007). *Total estimated cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States*. Chicago: Prevent Child Abuse America. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from [http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about\\_us/media\\_releases/pcaa\\_pew\\_economic\\_impact\\_study\\_final.pdf](http://www.preventchildabuse.org/about_us/media_releases/pcaa_pew_economic_impact_study_final.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Promising Practices Network. (2010). *Promising practices for preventing child abuse and neglect* (Issue Brief). Santa Monica, CA: Author. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from [http://www.promisingpractices.net/briefs/briefs\\_childabuse.asp?ref=ppntext](http://www.promisingpractices.net/briefs/briefs_childabuse.asp?ref=ppntext)

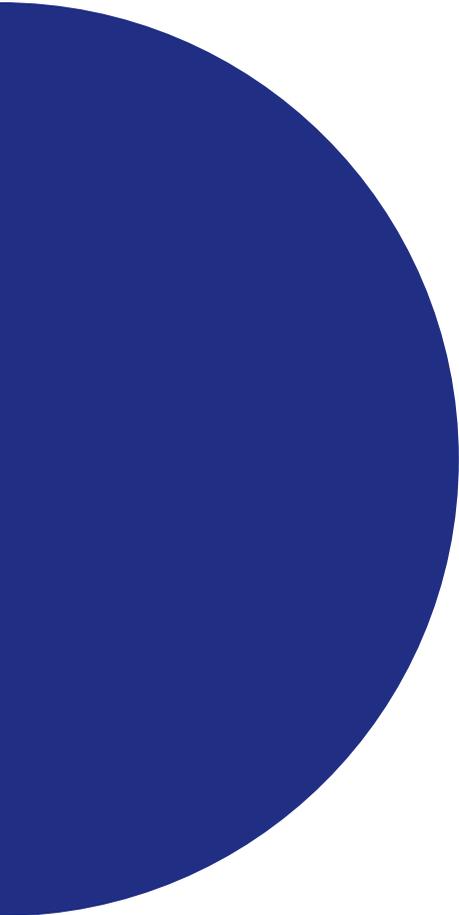
<sup>9</sup> Conway, T., & Hutson, R. Q. (2007). *Is kinship care good for kids?* Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from <http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0347.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Schwarz, S. W. (2009, October). *Adolescent violence and unintentional injury in the United States*. New York: National Center for Children in Poverty. Retrieved February 1, 2013, from [http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text\\_890.pdf](http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_890.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). *2012 Kids Count Data Book*. Retrieved January 29, 2013, from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2012/OnlineBooks/KIDSCOUNT2012DatBookFullReport.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> 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:**  
*education*

## PERSPECTIVE: education

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,<sup>1</sup> yet 13% of high school students nationally fail to earn a high school diploma.<sup>2</sup> For Hispanic and African American students the percentage is higher: 37% of Hispanics and 16% of African Americans fail to earn a high school diploma.<sup>3</sup> 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, 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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 develop-

mental benchmarks 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, five 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 positive. One of the most important outcomes, annual high school dropouts, decreased from 2007 to 2011, from 3.6% to 3.5%. Another positive trend is the 22% decrease in birth to teens ages 5-19 between 2007 and 2011. Juvenile law referrals also decreased over 19% from 2007 to 2011. On the early childhood education front, the findings are mostly positive. The licensed child care capacity rate per 1,000 children increased 7.8% from 2007 to 2012, and the number of accredited child care facilities increased by 7.4% during the same time period. The rate of children receiving subsidized care, per 1,000

poor children, increased 8.3% from 2007 to 2011, an indication of the worsening economic circumstances felt during the 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 a robust 13.5% from 2007 to 2011.

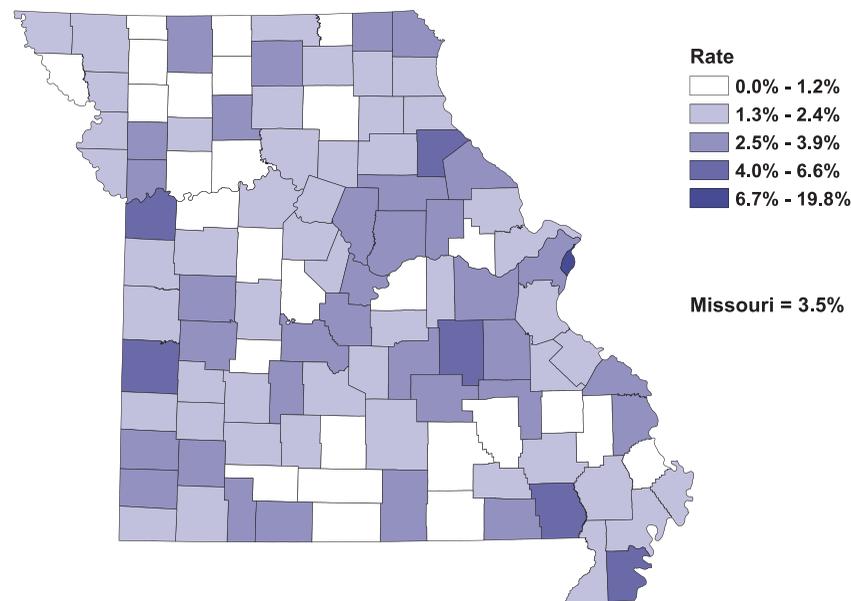
## Annual High School Dropouts

### Definition

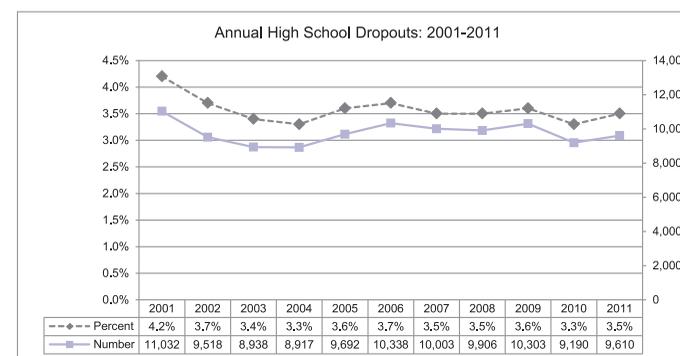
KIDS COUNT tracks the number of students enrolled in public high schools who left school during the school year without graduating. The rate is expressed as a percent of enrolled students. The formula used to calculate the rate accounts for transfers in and out of a school district. However, it does 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, 2011 refers to the 2010-2011 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

## Annual High School Dropout Rate by County, 2011



Source: Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)A  
Map Created On: 15 Jan 2013



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 2011, the mean annual income for a high school dropout in the U.S. was \$21,107 whereas the mean income for a high school graduate was \$32,493.<sup>6</sup> Youth who leave high school without receiving a diploma are more likely to be unemployed, receive public assistance, and be incarcerated as adults.<sup>7</sup> In addition, high school dropouts are more likely to be single parents and to have children who also do not complete high school.<sup>8</sup>

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 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.<sup>9</sup> Addressing the dropout problem can help support long-term economic growth within a state.

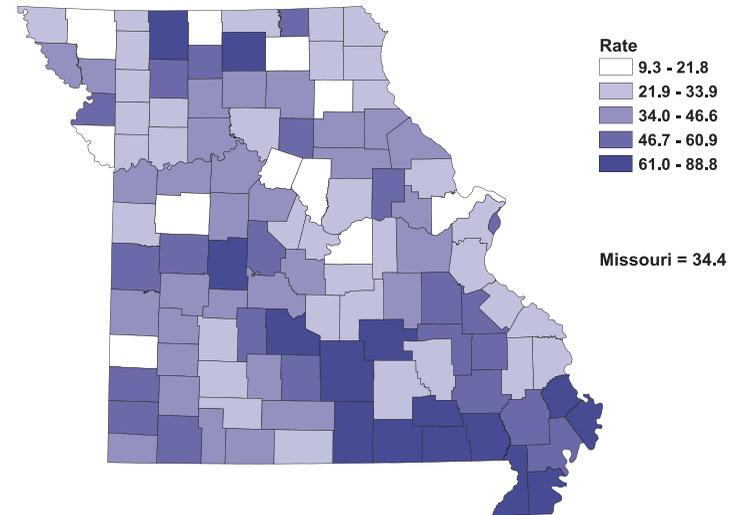
### State Findings

For the 2010-11 school year, Missouri's high school dropout rate was 3.5%, which is the same as last year's rate, and is slightly lower than the 2006-07 rate of 3.6%. This year's figure represented 9,610 students dropping out of school. The dropout rate bottomed out at 3.3% in 2004.

### County Findings

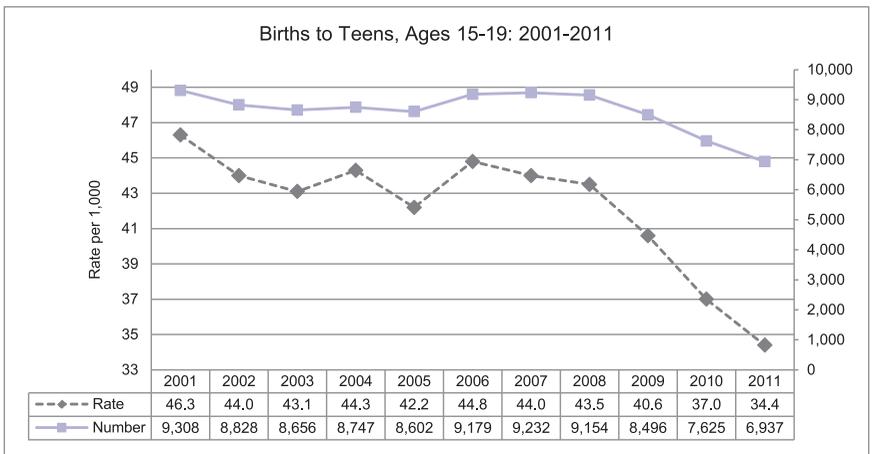
Seven counties had dropout rates of less than 0.5% in 2010-11: Mercer, Shannon, Worth, Morgan, Carroll, Douglas, and Oregon. Conversely, almost one in five (19.8%) of enrolled high school students in St. Louis City dropped out in 2010-11, by far the highest in the state. Other counties that had dropout rates of 4% or greater were Butler, Jackson, Vernon, Ralls, Crawford, and Pemiscot.

### Births to Teens Ages 15-19 per 1,000 Females by County, 2011



Data Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2012  
Map Created By: University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)

Map Created On: 16 Jan 2013



## 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.<sup>10</sup> 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 birthweight
- be premature
- suffer abuse and neglect

- have lower language and math skills
- have less general knowledge
- show deficits in social and emotional skills
- experience more problems in physical well-being and motor development
- drop out of high school
- become teen parents as well
- spend time in prison<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

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).<sup>14</sup>

### State Findings

The rate of births to teen mothers decreased sharply in recent years, from 44.0 births per 1,000 teen girls in 2007 to 34.4 births per 1,000 teenagers in 2011.

## County Findings

Nine counties had teen birth rates less than 20.0 (per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19) in 2011: Osage, Nodaway, Adair, St. Charles, Boone, Platte, Shelby, Mercer, and Johnson. High teen birth rates (above 70.0 per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19) were found in Mississippi, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Harrison, and Ripley.

## 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.<sup>15, 16, 17</sup>

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, to make impulsive decisions, and to be vulnerable to coercion by peers.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup>

### State Findings

The rate of juvenile law violation referrals for youth ages 10 to 17 has declined from 54.6 per 1,000 in 2007 to 44.3 per 1,000 in 2011. There were 28,292 juvenile law referrals in 2011. This number represents separately disposed court referrals, not individual youths.

In 2011, minority youth comprised 36.5% of the referrals, whereas non-minority youth accounted for 63.5%. Minority youths continue to have a disproportionate involvement with the juvenile justice system.

## County Findings

In 2011, the counties with the lowest juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10 to 17, per 1,000, were Chariton, Wayne, Scotland, Osage, Pemiscot, Mercer, Ozark, Knox, and Worth. These counties all had rates below 13.0 per 1,000 youth. The counties with the highest rates in 2011 (all above 70.0 per 1,000 youths) were Mississippi, Vernon, Barton, Randolph, Putnam, and Cedar.

## Children with Limited English Proficiency

### Definition

*KIDS COUNT* tracks the number of children enrolled in Missouri schools who have been defined as having limited 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, because 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.

### State Findings

The number of children enrolled in Missouri schools deemed to have limited English proficiency increased from 18,971 in 2007 to 21,539 in 2011.

### County Findings

In 2011, the counties with the greatest 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 2007 to 2011, the counties that gained the most number of children with limited English proficiency were Jackson, Jasper, St. Louis, Greene, St. Charles, Barry, Pulaski, and Buchanan.

## 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. Beginning with this year's data book, this indicator has been changed to a rate instead of a count. The rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18. 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.

### State Findings

In 2012, Missouri had 151,002 spaces available in licensed child care facilities, which results in a state rate of 106.9 spaces available per 1,000 children. This figure represents an increase from the 2007 figure of 99.2 spaces available per 1,000 children.

### County Findings

In 2012, the counties with the highest rates of spaces available in licensed child care facilities, all above 150 per 1,000 children, were Pettis, St. Louis City, Pike, Cole, Boone, and Osage. The counties with the lowest rate of spaces available in 2012, all below 30 per 1,000 children, were Daviess, Caldwell, Ray, Reynolds, and Ralls.

## 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 develop-

ment block grant. Beginning with this year's data book, this indicator has been changed to a rate instead of a count. The rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18 in poverty.

### 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.<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup>

### State Findings

In 2011, 49,564 children received subsidized child care, which results in a state rate of 167.5 per 1,000 children in poverty. This rate is an increase from 2007, when the rate was 154.7.

### County Findings

In 2011, the counties with the highest rates of child care subsidy participation, all above 200 per 1,000 children in poverty, were St. Louis City, St. Louis, Lafayette, St. Charles, Mississippi, and Scott. The counties with the lowest rate of child care subsidy participation in 2011, all below 15 per 1,000 children in poverty, were Worth, Mercer, Shannon, Iron, Caldwell, St. Clair, and Douglas.

## 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. It should be noted that standards differ among the accrediting agencies.

### State Findings

In 2012, 566 child care facilities were accredited by one of the state-approved accrediting bodies, an increase from 527 in 2007. This figure reached its peak in 2006 (613). Because accreditation costs money, this decrease may be attributed to programs choosing not to keep their

accreditation due to difficult economic circumstances.

### County Findings

From 2007 to 2012, the counties that gained the most number of accredited child care facilities were St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles, Clay, and Lafayette. Twenty-five counties decreased in the number of accredited facilities during this period. The counties that lost the most accredited child care facilities were Jackson, Iron, and Franklin.

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<sup>1</sup> Carnevale, A. P., & Desrochers, D. M. (2003). *Standards for what? The economic roots of K-16 reform*. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service. Retrieved February 5, 2013 from <http://www.learnodoearn.org/For-Educators/Standards-for-What.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2012, March), *Educational Attainment by Selected Characteristics: 2010*. Retrieved February 5, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0231.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

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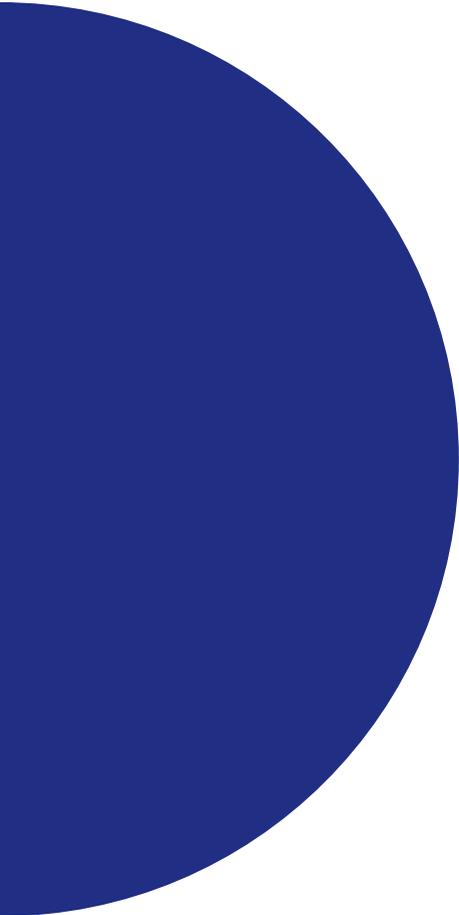
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## DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

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### 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 birthweight 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 "preponderance of evidence" that indicates child abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, this outcome includes the number of child abuse victims that receive 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, 2011 indicates the 2010-2011 school year. *Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

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

**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. In 2010, the current year used for this indicator in this data book, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$22,113. For 2012, the federal poverty threshold for the same family was \$23,050. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area) 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. Employees

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

**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. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18 in poverty. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census.*

**Licensed child care capacity:** number of spaces in licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census.*

**Accredited child care facilities:** number of child care centers accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Mis-

souri 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). *Source: Child Care Aware of Missouri.*

**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:** percentage of population under age 18 who live in households receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. *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.*

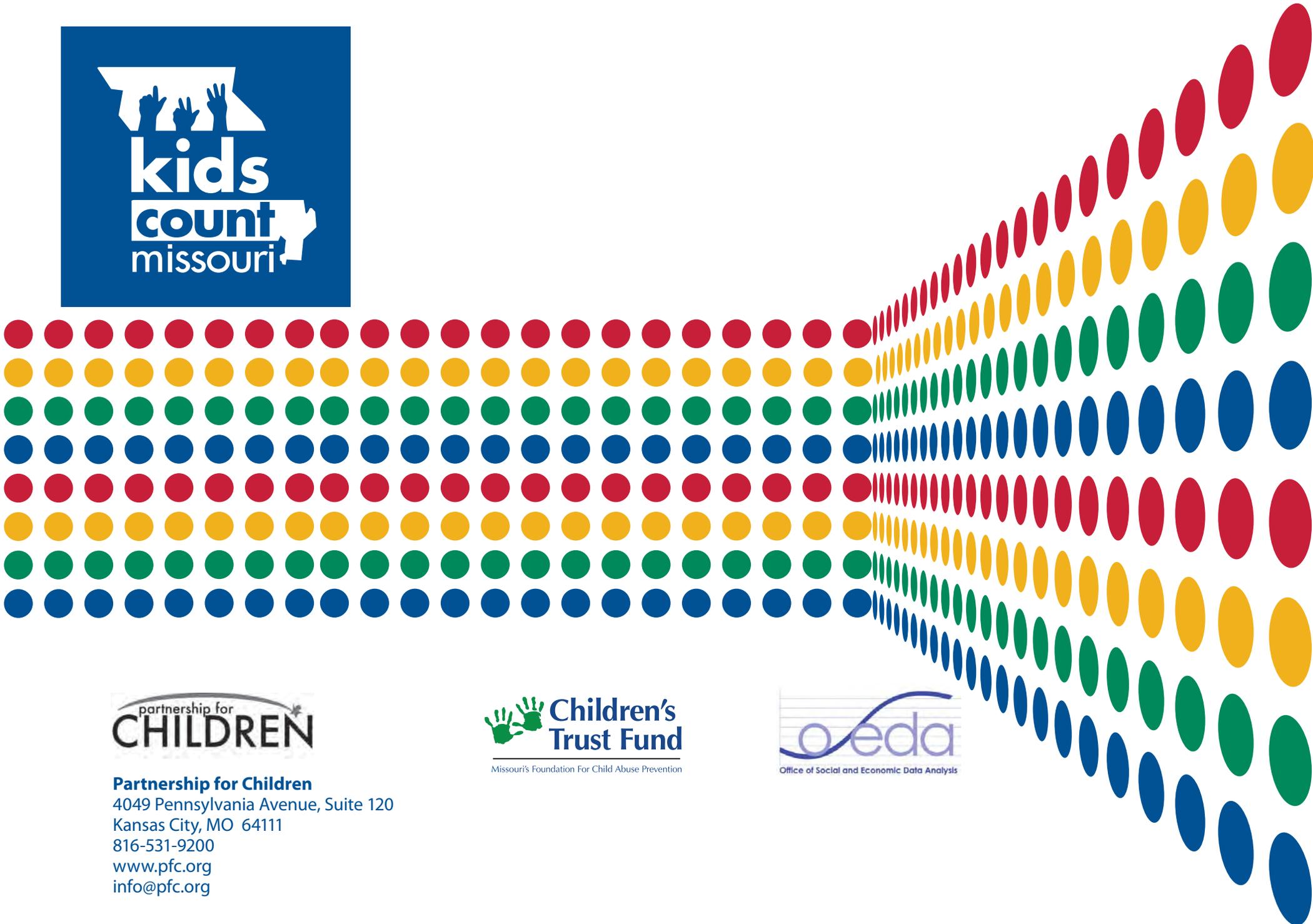
**Children receiving public SED mental health services:** an unduplicated count of children receiving treatment through a division of the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) for serious emotional disorders (SED) as of January 1st of the year reported for whom DMH provided a service in that calendar 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](http://www.pfc.org)  
[info@pfc.org](mailto:info@pfc.org)

