

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

CITY

kids count POCKET GUIDE

Measures of Child Well-Being
in the Nation's Largest Cities



KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. (This *Pocket Guide* is derived from the 2004 *KIDS COUNT Special Report: City & Rural KIDS COUNT Data Book*. For ordering information, see inside back cover.) The Foundation also funds a nationwide network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed, community-by-community picture of the condition of children.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Introduction
- 2** Map
- 4** Data Sources and Definition of Large Cities
- 6** City-by-City Data
- 14** Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

INTRODUCTION

For more than 15 years, the KIDS COUNT initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation has produced data books filled with statistics reflecting the general well-being of children in each state. This *Pocket Guide* is designed to give state-level policymakers a better understanding of conditions faced by families in their large cities and how they compare to those in the large cities located in other states, as well as the country as a whole.

This special *KIDS COUNT Pocket Guide* provides the kind of detailed, objective data needed to track and monitor the well-being of children in 71 large cities. The measures presented here provide information on the following:

- Poverty
- Family structure
- Parental employment
- Housing affordability
- Education

The data show that too many children growing up in large cities do not have the supports they need to become successful workers, responsible parents, and engaged citizens.

Addressing—and resolving—issues facing disadvantaged children and families requires a combination of know-how, political will, and tangible resources. We hope that you will join us in seeking better futures for all of America's vulnerable children and youth.

Large Cities in the United States





One out of every six children in the country lives in one of these large cities. The child poverty rate in these large cities (26 percent) is well above the national child poverty rate (17 percent).

DATA SOURCES AND DEFINITION OF LARGE CITIES

Data Sources

All of the statistics in this *Pocket Guide* are based on data from the 2000 Decennial Census. The Decennial Census has the major advantage of using the same questionnaire and methodology across the country, so that data are collected and measures are calculated consistently from one city to the next. Much of the data shown here were derived from tables published online by the U.S. Census Bureau, but five measures were obtained through special tabulations from the U.S. Census Bureau. Detailed definitions of the measures and descriptions of the data sources used in this *Pocket Guide* are in the PDF version of this report, available on the KIDS COUNT website (www.kidscount.org).

Definition of Large Cities

In this publication, we provide data for 71 cities. Figures are shown for the 50 largest cities in the nation, based on population as of April 1, 2000, and the largest city in each state that did not contain at least one of the 50 largest cities. It is important to note that the data shown here reflect cities and not metropolitan areas.

Collectively, the 50 largest cities are home to nearly 11.3 million children; approximately 16 percent of the total U.S. child population. Each of the 50 largest cities has a population of at least 71,000

children. The largest city, New York, had a total population of just over 8 million and 1.9 million children. Burlington, Vermont, is the smallest city included in this report with a total population of 38,889 and 6,331 children. While Burlington is small relative to many other cities in this report, it is the largest city in the state of Vermont.

In addition to the differences in population size, there are other differences among cities that affect the data presented here. Many cities in the Southwestern U.S. have expanded city boundaries dramatically in the last half of the 20th century, in part because there were few people living on the outskirts of these cities to resist such an expansion. Older cities in the Northeast and Midwest, on the other hand, were often surrounded by existing towns, so it was much more difficult to expand city boundaries as they grew.

As a result, many cities in the Southwest tend to be geographically larger than cities in the Northeast and Midwest with similar populations. For example, there are 475 square miles inside Phoenix city limits compared to 135 square miles in Philadelphia, even though they are similar in population size. Dallas and Detroit both have about 1 million people, but there are 343 square miles inside the Dallas city limits compared to 139 in Detroit. These differences have implications for some of the measures shown here. Sprawling cities in the Sun Belt are more likely to include suburban-like populations of higher socioeconomic status, compared with the more constrained cities in the Rust Belt.

Indicators of Child Well-Being for America's Largest Cities

	Children living in poverty
	PERCENT
United States	17
Top 50-City Average	26
Albuquerque, NM *	18
Anchorage, AK	9
Atlanta, GA *	39
Austin, TX *	17
Baltimore, MD *	31
Billings, MT	17
Birmingham, AL	36
Boise, ID	10
Boston, MA *	26
Bridgeport, CT	25
Burlington, VT	20
Charleston, WV	25
Charlotte, NC *	14
Cheyenne, WY	12
Chicago, IL *	29
Cleveland, OH *	38
Colorado Springs, CO *	11
Columbia, SC	30
Columbus, OH *	19
Dallas, TX *	26
Denver, CO *	21
Des Moines, IA	16
Detroit, MI *	35
El Paso, TX *	30
Fargo, ND	11
Fort Worth, TX *	22
Fresno, CA *	37
Honolulu, HI *	15
Houston, TX *	26
Indianapolis, IN *	17
Jackson, MS	34
Jacksonville, FL *	17
Kansas City, MO *	21
Las Vegas, NV *	16
Lexington-Fayette, KY	15
Little Rock, AR	22

NOTE: Data compiled by Kerri L. Foy. For more information, see the report's Appendix A for detailed definitions of each measure.
 * Denotes one of the 50 largest cities.
 N.A.=Data Not Available.

Children living in single-parent families PERCENT	Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment PERCENT	Children living with a household head who is a high school dropout PERCENT
26	32	20
37	45	31
33	34	18
27	32	9
60	57	31
29	34	26
59	53	30
28	32	8
55	50	24
24	24	7
47	47	27
50	48	37
36	35	13
38	36	13
31	30	15
28	27	9
40	53	37
59	54	32
25	25	8
47	39	16
39	34	18
33	44	44
33	42	35
32	30	18
62	60	30
28	44	31
22	25	6
30	39	36
34	56	43
24	37	17
31	44	42
37	32	19
52	49	23
35	31	17
41	37	20
29	39	29
29	28	13
39	37	14

Rivers and Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, and Steve Smith, U.S. Census Bureau.
 Data shown here are in the PDF version of this publication, available at www.kidscount.org.

Of children in low-income families, the share spending 30% or more of income on housing PERCENT	Children without a telephone at home PERCENT	Children without a vehicle at home PERCENT	
61	3	8	
65	4	21	
65	3	4	
74	1	4	
60	4	31	
65	3	6	
61	7	38	
N.A.	2	4	
58	4	16	
72	1	3	
63	2	27	
73	6	23	
N.A.	2	10	
N.A.	7	16	
67	2	7	
N.A.	1	3	
65	9	25	
64	5	23	
70	1	3	
58	4	15	
64	3	9	
56	5	11	
64	2	11	
58	2	5	
63	8	20	
58	4	8	
N.A.	1	3	
52	4	7	
66	3	14	
70	2	10	
54	4	11	
59	4	8	
59	6	11	
61	3	8	
58	3	10	
70	2	7	
61	3	5	
62	3	8	

Children who have difficulty speaking English (ages 5–17)	Teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16–19)	Teens not attending school and not working (ages 16–19)
PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT
7	10	9
14	13	12
7	12	11
4	9	9
5	14	14
14	15	10
2	15	18
1	9	5
2	14	14
3	7	6
14	7	8
15	15	14
4	4	3
1	13	15
6	14	9
2	10	8
15	16	16
4	18	17
2	12	10
3	10	8
3	10	9
21	25	17
17	24	17
6	12	10
4	15	17
27	9	10
2	7	4
13	18	14
20	11	12
11	5	8
19	19	15
2	15	12
1	12	11
2	13	10
4	13	13
12	21	18
3	10	7
2	10	11

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Memphis, TN *	30
Mesa, AZ *	11
Miami, FL *	39
Milwaukee, WI *	32
Minneapolis, MN *	25
Nashville, TN *	20
Newark, NJ	37
New Orleans, LA *	41
New York City, NY *	30
Oakland, CA *	28
Oklahoma City, OK *	23
Omaha, NE *	16
Philadelphia, PA *	32
Phoenix, AZ *	22
Portland, ME	21
Portland, OR *	17
Providence, RI	41
Sacramento, CA *	30
Salt Lake City, UT	19
San Antonio, TX *	25
San Diego, CA *	20
San Francisco, CA *	14
San Jose, CA *	11
Seattle, WA *	15
Sioux Falls, SD	11
St. Louis, MO *	37
Tucson, AZ *	24
Tulsa, OK *	21
Virginia Beach, VA *	9
Washington, DC *	32
Wichita, KS *	15
Wilmington, DE	31

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26	32	20
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36	54	42
30	54	50
32	28	16
53	47	25
24	28	18
44	56	47
52	50	32
41	47	25
38	35	20
57	60	39
55	55	28
39	49	32
40	56	38
33	36	23
31	29	15
50	51	29
30	38	34
35	38	12
31	37	17
51	55	41
36	52	31
25	39	25
31	39	30
26	40	27
24	45	27
20	35	27
28	38	15
25	22	10
58	54	29
36	40	25
34	35	18
24	23	6
58	55	30
28	28	16
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63	2	8	
68	10	42	
61	5	32	
73	3	49	
68	2	17	
55	5	7	
58	2	6	
63	3	33	
61	4	8	
N.A.	1	12	
73	1	7	
66	4	19	
67	2	10	
67	2	6	
52	4	9	
71	2	9	
64	1	16	
77	1	4	
70	1	8	
59	2	3	
61	6	25	
62	4	8	
56	4	7	
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58	4	39	
57	3	4	
N.A.	5	27	

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PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT
7	10	9
14	13	12
23	13	14
27	15	12
5	15	7
3	14	13
7	13	9
24	15	16
7	14	13
14	11	9
4	14	10
12	16	19
2	10	14
16	11	13
21	15	14
6	14	12
5	13	9
6	10	12
16	21	16
4	6	7
10	11	9
19	12	10
16	11	12
13	14	10
12	12	12
17	8	7
20	8	7
19	11	8
9	6	6
3	8	7
4	15	15
12	13	11
5	13	11
2	7	7
6	10	11
6	12	11
6	20	22

The KIDS COUNT State Network

The Annie E. Casey Foundation provides funding and technical assistance for a national network of KIDS COUNT projects in every state, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. These projects, listed on the following pages, measure and report on the status of children at the state and local levels and use data to inform public debates and encourage public action to improve the lives of children.

The state KIDS COUNT projects publish a range of data-driven materials—state data books, special reports, issue briefs, and fact sheets—that help policymakers and citizens identify the needs of children and families and develop appropriate responses to address these needs. Much of the local-level data collected by the state KIDS COUNT grantees is available at www.kidscount.org/cliks.

For more information about the network of state KIDS COUNT grantees, please visit www.kidscount.org/contacts.

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Designed by KINETIK
www.kinetikcom.com

Data compiled by Population Reference Bureau
www.prb.org



Printed and bound in the United States of America
on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. It was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and communities fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs.

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This *KIDS COUNT Pocket Guide* was produced for the Annie E. Casey Foundation by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). To contact PRB, visit www.prb.org or call 202.483.1100.

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