

North Dakota KIDS COUNT! “The Go-To Place”

Examining the critical issues for North Dakota children and families – that is what North Dakota KIDS COUNT! (NDKC) has been doing since 1994. Funded primarily by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, NDKC is “the go-to place” for information about the health and well-being of North Dakota’s children. NDKC works with members of the educational community and others who advocate for children, and conducts research so that national, state, and local decision-makers can more effectively identify and address children’s needs. NDKC offers public presentations, networking, and a website, as well as the following publication series: Fact Sheets, Issue Briefs, and Fact Books.



It’s about kids.

The North Dakota Fact Book presents current data on six main categories:

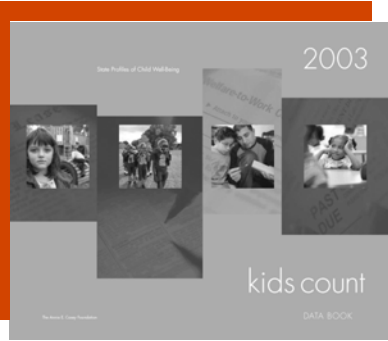
- Population - general population figures, median age, race;
- Family Composition - children living in single-parent families, women in the labor force with children, children in foster care;
- Economic Condition - children living in poverty, extreme poverty, and in near-poor families, median income of families with children, use of TANF, school lunch, WIC, and food stamps;
- Child Care - number of licensed, self-certified/registered, and tribal child care providers;
- Education - average investment for education per student, average daily membership of public schools, Head Start enrollment, Special Education enrollment, average ACT composite scores, high school dropouts;
- Children At Risk - child abuse and neglect reports and victims, children impacted by domestic violence, juvenile offenses, children who have not graduated/are not enrolled in school or in the labor force.

Child Health is an important category and was reported through 2002, but was discontinued due to changes in county-level data reporting procedures. However, data about Medicaid and the amount of prenatal care received by mothers are still available.

1. This document is the first issue of *Inform*, a series of **Fact Sheets** aimed at increasing awareness by providing overviews of current **information**. *Inform* fact sheets offer a quick review of a topic, such as family characteristics, grandparents as caregivers, multiple job holding, issues facing rural children and families, or findings from the 2002 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System. *Inform* Volume 1, Number 2 will discuss child care providers and capacity in North Dakota. A future issue will cover North Dakota’s child care workforce.
2. A second publication series, **Issue Briefs**, offers a more in-depth look into specific topics such as the economic impact of child care and the effects of “No Child Left Behind” and other federal legislation on North Dakota.
3. The third North Dakota KIDS COUNT! publication is the annual **Fact Book**, which provides state, regional, and county profiles based on six categories of data representing multiple indicators of child health and well-being (see lefthand column). Interactive data for North Dakota’s indicators are available online at the Casey Foundation’s CLIKS website, www.aecf.org/kidscount/cliks. CLIKS offers profiles, graphs, maps, and rankings, as well as data for other participating states.



2003 NDKC Fact Book
www.ndkidscount.org



2003 National Data Book
www.aecf.org/kidscount

Each year, the Casey Foundation publishes a National KIDS COUNT Data Book based on their own set of indicators. North Dakota ranks very well nationally, achieving 7th best overall in 2003 for the health and well-being of its children. The data reported in the National Data Book include:

- Percent low-birthweight babies
- Infant mortality rate
- Child death rate
- Teen death rate
- Teen birth rate
- Percent of teens who are high school dropouts
- Percent of teens not attending school and not working
- Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment
- Percent of children in poverty
- Percent of families with children headed by a single parent.

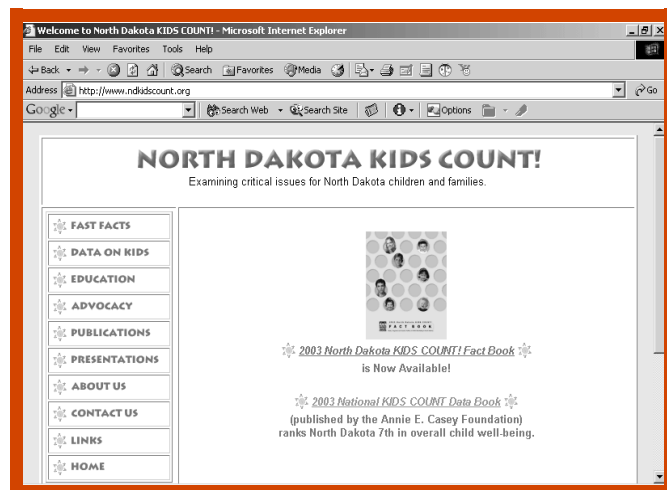
North Dakota KIDS COUNT! staff are always interested in ideas and feedback from those we serve. Please share your thoughts with us!
 Call: (701) 231-5931
 E-mail: ndkidscount@yahoo.com

Many of North Dakota's children live in rural areas, and the experiences of rural children across the nation are not completely represented among the indicators in current state and national KIDS COUNT publications. As a result, Casey has funded a Rural KIDS COUNT Collaborative Project to better explore the uniqueness of issues facing rural children and their families across the nation. Efforts to identify additional topics of relevance to rural children have included focus groups with rural families. Issues of transportation and commuting distance, accessibility of medical care, employment concerns such as low wages and having to work more than one job, opportunities for community connectedness, and the availability of youth activities, affordable child care, and facilities are themes uncovered by these rural initiatives. The results of focus groups in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska were published in a 2001 report entitled *A Rural Road: Exploring Economic Opportunity, Social Networks, Services and Supports that Affect Rural Families* (see above).



A Rural Road
www.ndkidscount.org

The NDKC Program website offers a variety of educational information, including fast facts, advocacy issues, trends, and perspectives, and is geared toward a varying audience. Parents, educators, policy makers, grant writers, and advocates will all find the resources available on the website of value. Data, publications, presentations, links, more about North Dakota KIDS COUNT!, and contact information can be found online at www.ndkidscount.org.



www.ndkidscount.org