



## Press Release

EMBARGOED until June 21

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### **Alaska Data shows areas of improvement and growth for Alaska's most vulnerable: Economic well-being is top priority**

**ANCHORAGE**, Alaska — Alaska came in at 47<sup>th</sup> for economic well-being in the KIDS COUNT nationwide results, with 13% of children statewide living in poverty. The data notes a particularly high housing burden for families, with 30% of children living in households where close to a third of salary goes towards housing. Of the four measured indicator areas: education, economic well-being, health, and family and community, our state ranks in the bottom quarter of the country in all but the last. Alaska is not getting empirically worse in many of the areas, just holding steady and relatively stagnant since 2010 compared with other states who are working hard to change their rankings and their outcomes for children and families. For one indicator area, family and community, our state is making strides to ensure our youngest thrive, we ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> nationwide for the area and excelled as the lowest state in the nation for smallest percentage of low-birth weight babies. We also saw a decrease in the number of teen pregnancies in Alaska.

The data is part of a recent report published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Foundation's annual KIDS COUNT report, which tracks state data relating to families and communities. Alaska Children's Trust supplements the data with a bi-annual report of our own that takes a deeper dive into each of the four areas. The purpose of the reporting is to answer the question of "If children are thriving, how would we know?"

When asked about the recent data, Trevor Storrs, President & CEO of Alaska Children's Trust, said "The best way to measure how well we are doing as a state is to take a look at the well-being of our children. Alaska's children continue to suffer year after year, as our leaders cut the budget, deplete our savings, and invest in our children less and less."

## Release Information

The *2021 KIDS COUNT report* will be available June 21 at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Kids Count* report can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org). Alaska Children's Trust biannual data was released in April and can be accessed here: [alaskachildrenstrust.org/kidscount](http://alaskachildrenstrust.org/kidscount)

## About Alaska Children's Trust

Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. For over thirty years, we have invested resources across Alaska to ensure children live in safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

## About the Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). *KIDS COUNT*® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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