KIDS COUNT IN DELAWARE
FAMILIES COUNT IN DELAWARE

Executive Summary 2016

KIDS COUNT
Dear Friends,

As a parent and as your Governor, there is nothing more important to me than protecting Delaware's children from harm, keeping them as healthy as possible, and creating educational and economic opportunities for them. Keeping them as healthy as possible is vital to their well-being. Children who grow up strong and healthy are challenged and ready to learn, and have confidence in their own abilities are better prepared to be self-sufficient and able to contribute to society and our economy. We seek to create a world where our kids see no limit to what they can accomplish.

Creating an environment where all children can succeed requires the focused attention of many stakeholders and I deeply appreciate the engagement we enjoy in Delaware from across the public and private sectors. Together, we are moving children from poverty to achievement, especially in the most at-risk communities. Companies considering where they want to settle down, invest in a home, and engage in their community. Companies understand that investments in our kids are good investments for us all. They attract parents who are inspired to learn, and have confidence in their own abilities are better prepared to be self-sufficient and able to contribute to society and our economy. We seek to create a world where our kids see no limit to what they can accomplish.

Thanks to the collective attention of ours, Delaware's children today are better prepared than at any time in our history to live fulfilling lives and to thrive in the 21st century world. That wouldn't have been possible without increased investments in education for our youngest learners, training programs that teach skills sought by growing industries, improved access to healthcare, efforts to be better stewards of our environment, and a wide range of indoor and outdoor cultural and recreational resources. Cigarette use is down significantly. More than ever before, our youngest learners are enrolled in highly rated early childhood educational programs. Thousands more students have access to college credit and workplace experience in educational programs. Thousands more students have access to college credit and workplace experience in educational programs. Thousands more students have access to college credit and workplace experience in educational programs. Thousands more students have access to college credit and workplace experience in educational programs.

While we have good reason to celebrate, we've also got more work to do. We must ensure that Delaware's economic expansion which has driven the highest consecutive years of job growth in our history lifts up all of Delaware's workers and provides economic security for every child. We must continue to drive access to preventive care and encourage healthy diet and exercise. And we must continue to be innovative while making meaningful investments for children in Delaware. KIDS COUNT in Delaware is an organization that exists to answer questions that aren't determinants of health' inventory? Why do we have disparities in outcomes by race and ethnicity or by income levels among the simplest, most obvious of ways: by wanting more. That's the belief and driving force of the people who make up the KIDS COUNT in Delaware team. We work hard to gather accurate, reliable data. We analyze the data. We translate the data into policies that help make our communities better places.

Sincerely,

Governor
Welcome to the Executive Summary of the 2016 KIDS COUNT in Delaware Fact Book.

This project is a collaborative effort of over forty organizations and is housed within the Center for Community Research & Service at the University of Delaware. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local and state discussion concerning ways to secure better lives for all children. Our mission is to provide up-to-date, accurate, objective, comprehensive data on the well-being of children, youth and their families in order to raise awareness and inform both policy and programmatic decisions throughout the state.

Data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and the Delaware Population Consortium provide a picture of the population of the state of Delaware, its counties and cities, and the nation. Demographic information supplies valuable information about the population and provides a clear snapshot of society at a given time. Demographically speaking, we are much less of a child centered society now than we were 100 years ago. In the United States, children accounted for 40% of the population in 1900, but only 24% in 2010, with similar trends evident in Delaware. Delaware’s kids are also the most racially diverse generation Delaware has seen. The data is clear: the odds are stacked against many children of color, who along with their families, account for an increasingly growing proportion of Delaware’s population. If the gap in opportunities between races persists while Delaware continues to diversify, the socioeconomic outcomes for everyone will worsen.
## Kids Count Overview

### Health and Health Behaviors

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<thead>
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<th>Low Birth Weight Births</th>
<th>Infant Mortality</th>
<th>Children Without Health Insurance</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>As a Percentage of All Births</strong></td>
<td><strong>Deaths of Infants Less than 1 Year Old per 1,000 Live Births</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of Children (0-17) without Health Insurance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2013......8.5% <strong>IMPROVED</strong> 2004-2008......9.1%</td>
<td>2009-2013......7.7 <strong>IMPROVED</strong> 2004-2008......8.4</td>
<td>2013-2015......6.7% <strong>IMPROVED</strong> 2008-2010......8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Educational Involvement and Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Rates</th>
<th>3rd Grade Reading Proficiency</th>
<th>8th Grade Math Proficiency</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of June Graduates Compared to the 9th Grade Class Four Years Previous</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of Delaware Third Graders Meeting the Standard in Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Percentage of Delaware Eighth Graders Meeting the Standard in Math</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015......84.3% <strong>WORSENE</strong></td>
<td>2014-2015......54%</td>
<td>2014-2015......35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010......86.7%</td>
<td><em>Delaware’s “Smarter Balance” test was initiated in the 2014/15 school year. Because the performance measure has changed, the first year of data should be viewed as a baseline year.</em></td>
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**Economic Security**

**Children in Poverty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Children (0-17) in Poverty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015: 20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010: 15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worsened</strong></td>
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</table>

**Median Family Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Income in Thousands of US Dollars of Households with Children under 18 by Family Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015: 1-parent $24,897, 2-parent $85,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010: 1-parent $28,599, 2-parent $85,393</td>
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<td><strong>Worsened</strong></td>
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</table>

**Economic Inclusion of Young People**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Teens (16-19) Not Attending School and Not Working</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2015: 7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2010: 8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Improved</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Family and Community**

**Teen Births**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Live Births to 15-19 Year-old Females per 1,000 15-19 Year-old Females</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2013: 30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2008: 42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improved</strong></td>
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**Children in One-Parent Families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Children (0-17) in One-Parent Families</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2013-2015: 36.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-2010: 35.6%</td>
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<td><strong>Worsened</strong></td>
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**Child Abuse/Neglect**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children with Substantiated Reports of Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children Ages Birth to 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2015: 6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010: 9.4</td>
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Health and Health Behaviors

The future prosperity of any society depends on its ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation. Children’s health is vital to development from infancy through adulthood, and is the basis of a stable society. Safeguarding a child’s health is the first step to ensuring a child is able to grow, learn, and thrive, but there are areas in need of improvement. For example, Delaware still exceeds the national average in low-weight births and infant mortality rates.

An evidence-based approach to improving children’s health in Delaware calls for awareness of the social and economic determinants of health. Since mothers and infants are among the most vulnerable members of society, different approaches to their health problems are required. Delaware has several evidence-based home-visiting community health programs which transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child.

**Did you know?**
Common issues linked to low birth weight include:
- Infection
- Breathing problems such as infant respiratory distress syndrome
- Low oxygen levels at birth
- Difficulty feeding and gaining weight
- Bleeding inside the brain
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)


**Did you know?**
Since 1915, when infant mortality was first assessed, there has been an overall declining trend in the number of infant deaths which can be attributed to economic growth, improved nutrition, advances in medicine, and improved sanitary conditions.

Health and Health Behaviors

**Infant Mortality**

**Delaware Compared to U.S.**

- Delaware: 7.7
- U.S.: 6.1

**Delaware by Race/Ethnicity**

- Black: 13.4
- Hispanic: 7.3
- White: 5.1
- Delaware: 7.7

**Children Without Health Insurance**

**Delaware Compared to U.S.**

- Delaware: 6.7
- U.S.: 7.4

**Delaware by Age**

- Ages 0-5: 9.5
- Ages 6-18: 7.5

**Did you know?**

In 2012, approximately 1.2 million children were unable to receive necessary medical care because the family could not afford it, and care for 2.1 million children was delayed because of the burden of the cost.


Note: Infant Mortality Rate – number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per 1,000 live births

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware
Educational Involvement and Achievement

The first five years of a child’s life are an important time for growth and development, and lay out the foundations for language, academic ability, habits and socio-emotional development. Research shows that access to high quality early care and education programs help young children grow up ready to succeed in school and life. However, there are large gaps in the quality of early care and childhood programs, and not all children receive the maximum benefits from their program.

When we invent and replicate high quality programs for children and youth, we can solve these gaps in early childhood development and show significant long-term improvements for children. Investing in a system of high quality early care and education programs will benefit both young children and society. Early investments reap dividends as child development translates into economic development later on.

In K-12, there is a race gap between white and nonwhite test scores, literacy rates, and graduation rates. These measures are good determinants of future success, and with an increasingly diverse population, addressing this gap will be key to ensuring the stability of our future workforce.

Did You Know?

In the 2013 to 2014 school year, the state of Delaware had a 2.1% dropout rate for grades 9 through 12, which is the lowest dropout rate since data was first collected in 1984.

Educational Involvement and Achievement

**3rd Grade Proficiency**

**Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity**
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>All Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Proficiency</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: Delaware Department of Education

**Math Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity**
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Proficiency</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Delaware Department of Education

**8th Grade Proficiency**

**Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity**
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Proficiency</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Delaware Department of Education

**Math Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity**
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

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<th>All Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Proficiency</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Delaware Department of Education

Note: In the 2014-15 school year, Delaware’s assessment program was renamed the Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA). DeSSA assessments include Smarter English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics assessments. The Smarter assessments are designed to measure the progress of Delaware students in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics standards in grades 3-8, and 11.

Note: Because the performance measure has changed, the first year of data should be viewed as a baseline year.

Notes: “All” includes Native American and Asian.
Source: Delaware Department of Education
Economic Security

Delaware should be a place where a child’s beginnings, however humble, do not limit life’s path. Poverty is the single greatest threat to a child’s well-being. Low-income children lack the future opportunities as upper- or middle-class children, due to worse health, educational, and economic outcomes. Fewer children in poverty will mean increased positive outcomes and opportunities for everyone.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the nation’s most effective anti-poverty programs for working families. Delaware can enrich its EITC policy by offering a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC in Delaware is non-refundable, meaning it reduces the tax liability to families but does not provide a refund. The EITC serves many public policy goals, including reducing child poverty, increasing the incentive to work, stabilizing income, and spurring consumption.

Did You Know?

Children in poverty have a higher risk of displaying emotional and behavioral problems such as disobedience, impulsive behavior and trouble getting along with their peers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Economic Security

Median Family Income

Median Income of Families with Children by Family Type – Delaware and U.S.

Delaware 2-Parent

Delaware 1-Parent

U.S. 2-Parent

U.S. 1-Parent

Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware

Economic Inclusion of Young People

Teens Not in School and Not Working

Delaware Compared to U.S.

Notes:
- Teens Not in School and Not Working – teenagers ages 16–19 who are not in school and not employed, also referred to as “disconnected youth.”
- Variations in the Delaware graph are due to sampling size of the data collection. Data are collected through a sample size too small for county breakout. This measure is based on an analysis of the Current Population Survey, representing a nationwide sampling. Like all estimates derived from sampling, these figures do contain sampling errors. The Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that state rankings based on these figures should be used with caution.

Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware

Children in Poverty by Household Structure

Kent and Sussex County data are not available separately.
Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware
Family and Community

Just as a good family responds and adapts to the issues facing its children, a good community adjusts to the issues facing the children living and growing in it. Sometimes a family’s community doesn’t do enough. According to a 2014 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, there is still a lot of room for public, private, and nonprofit sectors to improve in creating the best community for raising Delaware’s children.

Communities can realign with the needs of the families of today by adopting a two-generation approach to community-building that equips parents and children with the income, tools and skills they need to succeed, structures public systems to respond to the realities facing today’s families, and uses existing child, adult and neighborhood programs and platforms to build practical pathways out of poverty for entire families.

Did You Know?

Children are much more likely to face poverty when living in a single-mother household. In 2013, 46% of children in single-mother families were considered poor, compared with 10% of children living in households where the parents were married.


Did You Know?

Pregnancy and childbirth are major contributors to high school dropout rates among teen girls. Only about 50% of teenage mothers receive their high school diploma by age 22, versus approximately 90% of women who did not experience teenage parenthood.

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm
Family and Community

Children in One-Parent Families

Children in One-Parent Families—Delaware Compared to U.S.

- Delaware: 36.8%
- U.S.: 34.0%

Note: Children in One-Parent Households = percentage of all families with “own children” under age 18 living in the household, who are headed by a person—male or female—without a spouse present in the home. “Own children” are never-married children under 18 who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware

Births to Single Mothers—Delaware by Race/Hispanic Origin

- Black: 71.8%
- Hispanic: 64.1%
- White: 40.4%

Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

Child Abuse/Neglect

Number of Substantiated Cases

- Total Substantiated Cases: 1,178

Types of Abuse and Neglect—Delaware Fiscal Year 2015

- Neglect: 50%
- Abuse (except sexual): 30%
- Sexual Abuse: 7%
- Dependency: 13%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Abuse and Neglect</th>
<th>Number of Substantiated Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuse (except sexual)</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Substantiated Cases</td>
<td>1,178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Did You Know?

Each year, there are more than three million cases of child abuse are reported nationwide, involving more than six million children.

Source: https://www.childhelp.org/child-abuse-statistics/
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• Delaware Department of Public Safety
• Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
• Delaware Health Statistics Center
• Delaware Population Consortium
• Delaware State Housing Authority
• Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
• Nemours Health and Prevention Services
• Statistical Analysis Center
Several national reports are available by going to:  
http://datacenter.kidscount.org