



**KIDS COUNT IN DELAWARE  
FAMILIES COUNT IN DELAWARE**



*Fact Book 2014*



# KIDS COUNT Overview

Welcome to the Executive Summary of our nineteenth edition of KIDS COUNT in Delaware.

This collaborative project of the State of Delaware and KIDS COUNT is housed in the Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware. Since 1995, KIDS COUNT in Delaware has been reporting on the status of children in the state. Working with the State of Delaware since 1998, KIDS COUNT has been monitoring the conditions of families, children and individuals in the community.

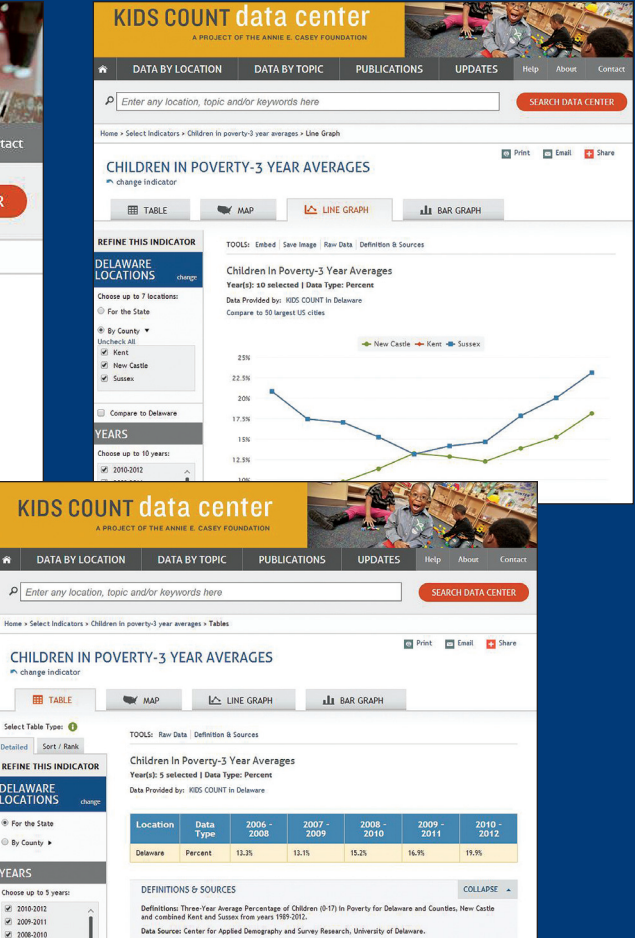
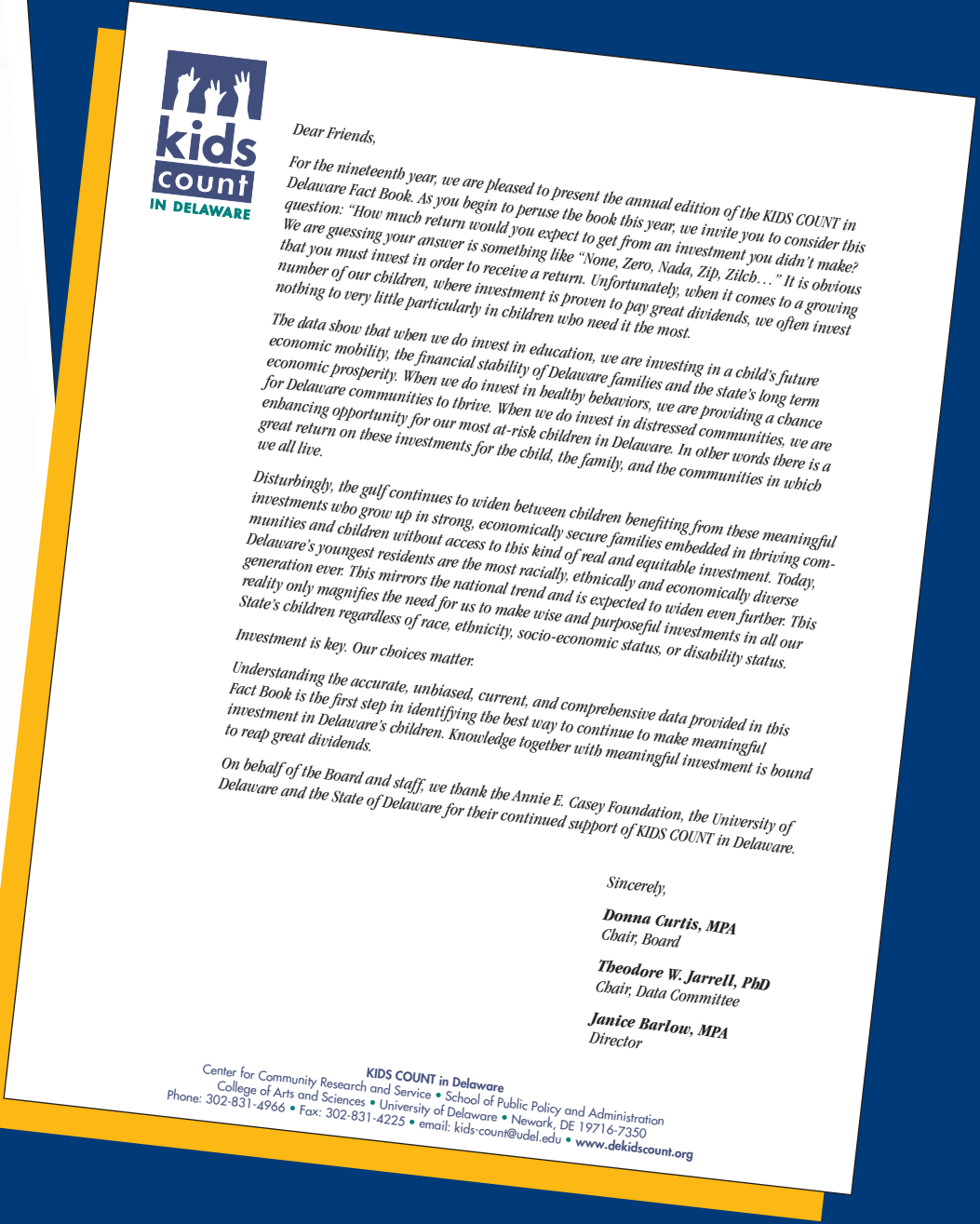
In addition to this Summary, find our 226-page annual fact book at [www.dekidscount.org](http://www.dekidscount.org). Also available online is the KIDS COUNT Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>), where all of our indicators can be found. It allows the ability to create and download different visualizations or spreadsheets of all of our data. Whether you share this report with others, go online for the full digital version, or utilize the Data Center to discover even more ways to customize the data, please join us in using this data to make informed program and policy decisions by investing in Delaware's biggest asset, our kids.



## KIDS COUNT® in Delaware

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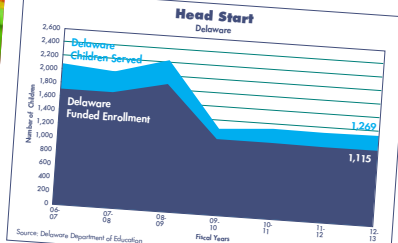
The 226-page  
**KIDS COUNT  
in Delaware  
Fact Book 2014**  
is available at  
www.dekidscount.org.

## Head Start



The Head Start program provides comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. The cultural, and linguistic experience of the children and their families.

Head Start and partnering organizations promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services. A hallmark of the program is its emphasis on engaging parents in the many activities that support their child's development.



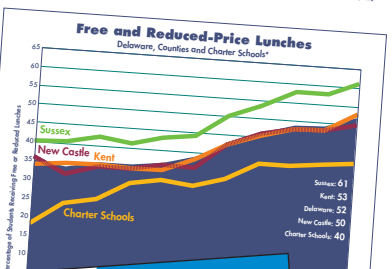
**Did you know?** The New Castle County Head Start Program utilizes three major models as part of their curriculum: Creative Curriculum, Doves to Discovery, and the Pyramid Model. Creative Curriculum seeks to promote a child's social and cognitive development.

**PUT DATA INTO ACTION** All Early Head Start programs serve families through a full day, full year program. Start offers a variety of programs:

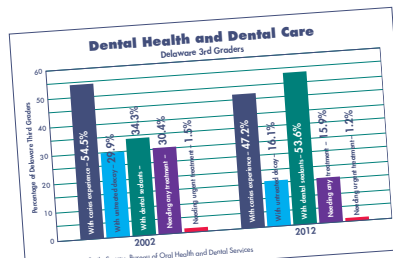
- Center-Based services

## Children Receiving Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

A healthy diet is essential to the academic achievement of young people. For this reason, nutritious meals are now considered an integral part of a good education. When children are hungry, they can not function or learn at their highest potential. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public, private nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritious, well-balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. To ensure that these children continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, the Summer Food Service Program was created. The Summer Food Service Program (SFP) is another program that provides cash assistance to states to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in other federal meal service programs.



## Oral Health



**PUT DATA INTO ACTION** Delaware's oral health programs are working. Compared to 2002, substantially fewer children have untreated decay and more children have protective dental sealants.



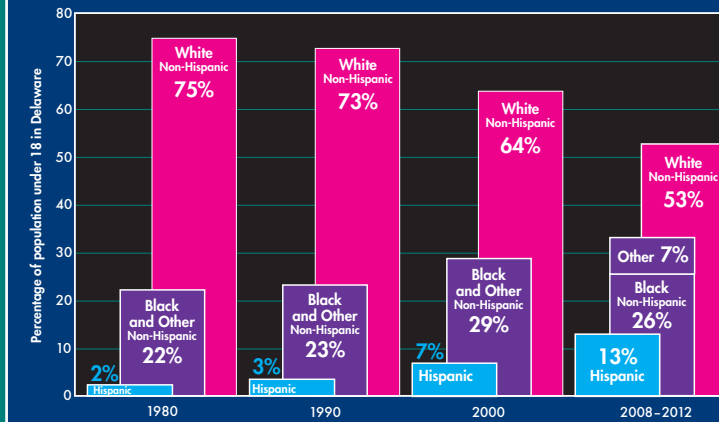
**Did you know?** The Delaware Division of Public Health recommends that a child visit the dentist before his or her first birthday. Baby teeth are especially important to maintain. If they are lost too early, permanent teeth will tend to grow overcrowded or out of alignment.

**PUT DATA INTO ACTION** Partly sponsored by the Delaware State Dental Society, Give Kids a Smile is a group of committed volunteers (dentists, oral hygienists, office staff, and dental supply representatives) that treat underserved populations in the state. Since 2004, 1,300 Delaware children have been treated thanks to the coordinated efforts of Give Kids a Smile.

The portrait of our nation's children is changing rapidly. Ongoing demographic trends suggest that, in the coming decades, the U.S. will have a population of children which is increasingly diverse in economic resources, racial and ethnic background and family structure. Today, Delaware's youngest residents—our children under age 18—comprise 25% of the state's almost 1 million residents and are the most racial/ethnically diverse generation ever. With ongoing changes in the composition of our child population, existing disparities are at risk of growing, making investments in our state's children all the more important. When our state's children and families thrive, we ensure that Delaware's workforce and economy will thrive for years and generations to come. By making smart investments in kids, we also increase their odds of success by starting to close some of the opportunity gaps that exist in health, education, and economic well-being. Understanding the accurate, current and comprehensive data provided in this summary, the 226-page annual fact book online and on the KIDS COUNT Data Center is the first step in building the foundation that can create a better, more equitable future for everyone. Followed by thoughtful effective collective action, we can develop assets, improve the prospects for our children and build a better tomorrow for our state.

## Changing Face of Delaware's Children

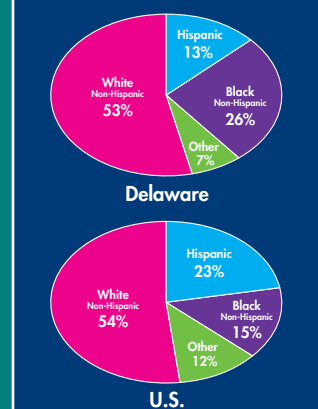
Children under 18 by Race/Hispanic Origin, Delaware



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

## Child Population

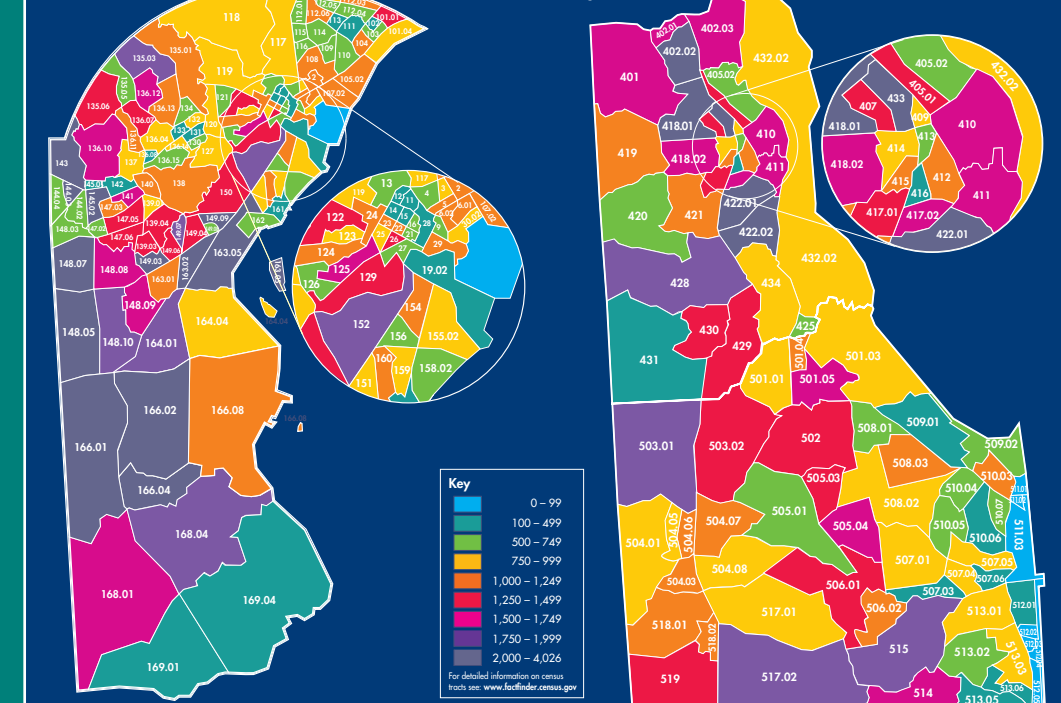
by Race/Hispanic Origin, 2007-2011



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

## Where Are the Kids?

Number of Children 0-19 by Census Tract Delaware, Five-Year Average 2008-2012

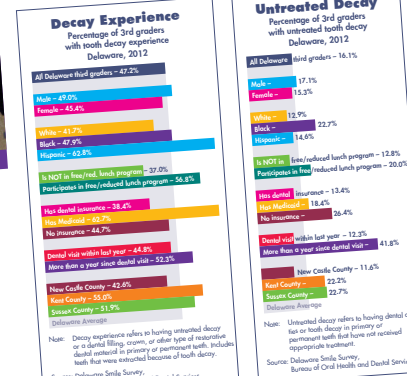


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

## Oral Health



Oral health is an important component of a child's overall health and well-being, but many children do not receive comprehensive oral health care. Dental disease is more likely to affect children from low-income communities, minority groups, or children with special health care needs. A combination of access to dental care services, underserved areas, and increasing the number of dental providers in underserved areas are a few strategies that help to prevent childhood oral health problems. To describe the oral health of Delaware's children, the Delaware Oral Health Program, conducted Delaware Smiles 2013, a statewide oral health survey of third grade children attending Delaware's public schools. The findings highlight the current oral health of Delaware's children and disparities in oral health within Delaware.



**Did you know?** Tooth decay (cavities) is the most common childhood disease. It has the potential to lead to various problems with eating, speaking, and learning. One of the best ways to prevent cavities is appropriate levels of fluoride which is found in most toothpastes and approximately 74% of all public drinking water.

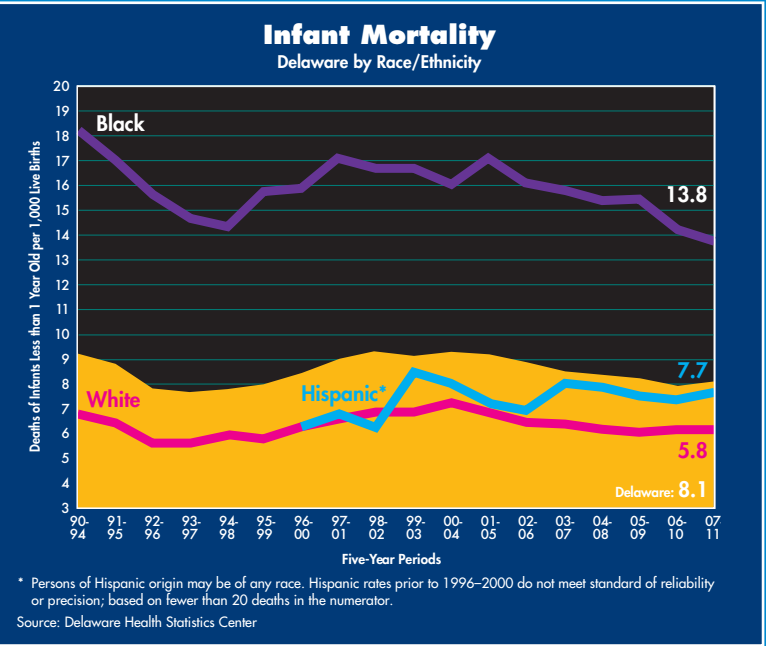
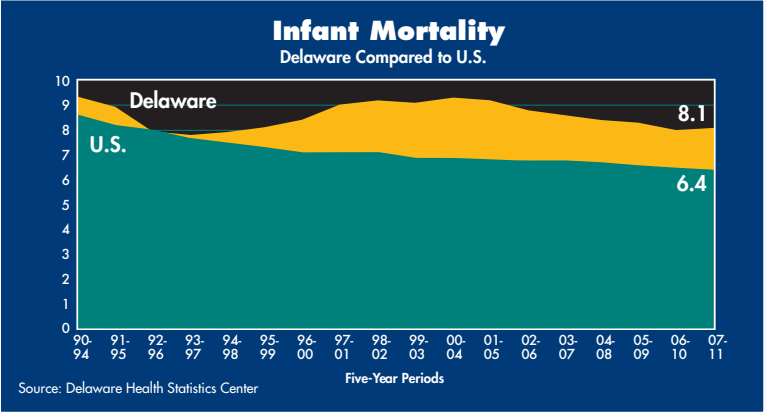
**Did you know?** 85% of parents report that their child has dental insurance and 78% report that their child visited the dentist in the last year. If a child had not been to the dentist in the last year, they were significantly more likely to have untreated decay and significantly less likely to have protective dental sealants.



# Health and Health Behaviors



Children’s health is the foundation of their overall development and a healthy start is the first step in ensuring a child is able to grow, learn and thrive. However, there are disparities in our state which make it hard for all children to have access to the things that create a healthy lifestyle. For example, infant mortality, low birth-weight, and certain health issues disproportionately affect children of color due to factors such as a lack of access to care, inadequate housing, and poor access to healthy foods. The neighborhood where a child lives and grows has a direct impact on his or her health including the quality of the air, access to safe and green places to play, and the types of food available. Community factors such as crime, including violence and substance abuse, also impact a child’s health. The health of a child impacts other aspects of well-being such as school readiness and attendance and can have lasting consequences on his or her future outcomes. All of our state’s children deserve the opportunity to start with a strong foundation of good health so that their future success in school and beyond can be achieved.



**Did you know?** Research has shown that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) leads to increased birth weights in newborns, improved mental health among mothers as well as fewer biological indicators associated with poor health in affected mothers.

Source: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w18206>

## Put DATA into

**ACTION:** “Long Live Dreams” is a safe sleeping campaign for infants recently launched in Delaware to reduce the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). “Long Live Dreams” contains four core practices:

- No smoking in the home; especially for homes with infants. Babies exposed to secondhand smoke are three times more likely to die from SIDS.
- Babies should always sleep alone in a safe crib and never in a bed with adults, not even for naps.
- Babies should always sleep on a firm baby mattress with nothing else in the crib. Pillows, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals, wedges, and bumper pads should not be used in cribs.

- Babies should always sleep on their backs, even at naptime. Stomach sleeping greatly increases the risk of sleep-related causes of infant deaths. Babies who sleep on their backs get more oxygen and are far less likely to suffocate.

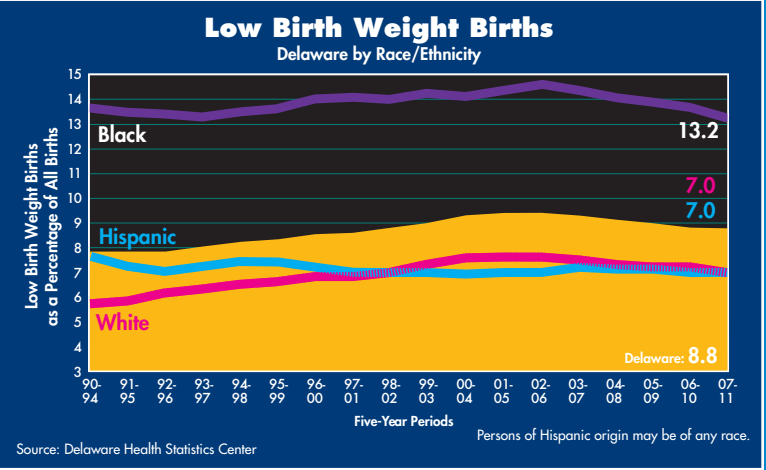
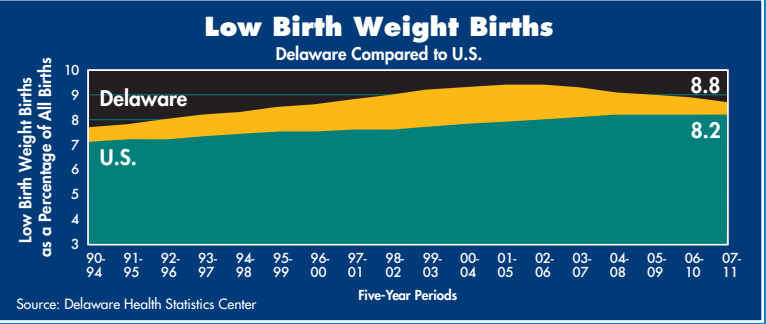
Source: Delaware Health and Social Services

# Health and Health Behaviors



**Did you know?** Pregnant women with access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during their third trimester give birth to babies with significantly higher birth weights. The impact of this program has been the greatest for babies born in the poorest counties in the U.S. as well as for African-American newborns.

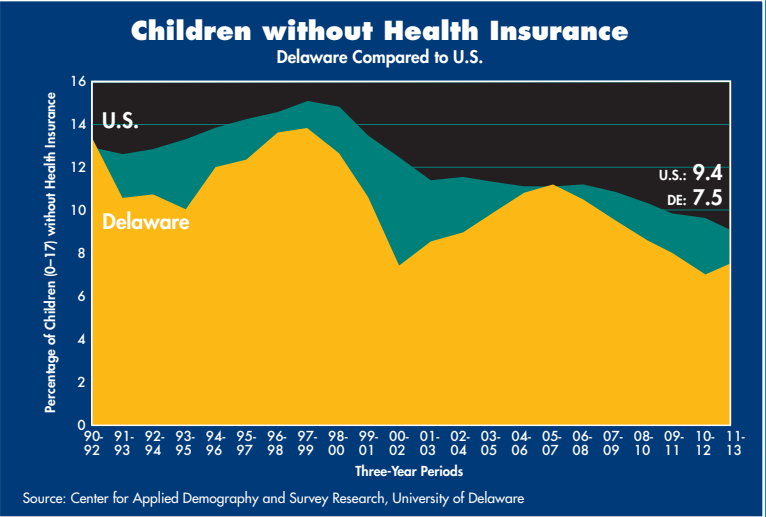
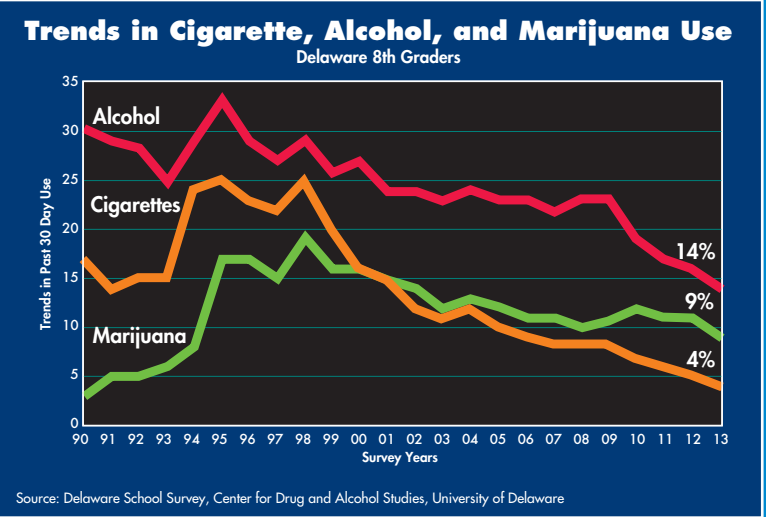
Source: [http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/REST\\_a\\_00089](http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/REST_a_00089)



## Put DATA into ACTION:

Delaware’s legislature recently approved an allocation of \$3.3 million to grow mental health resources in the state’s middle schools. This plan includes the hiring of 30 behavioral health consultants to provide walk-in basis emotional support for students and provide training to other faculty.

Source: Delaware seeks to fulfill consistent shortfall in child mental health services. <http://www.wdde.org/47717-delaware-child-mental-health-services>





# Educational Involvement and Achievement

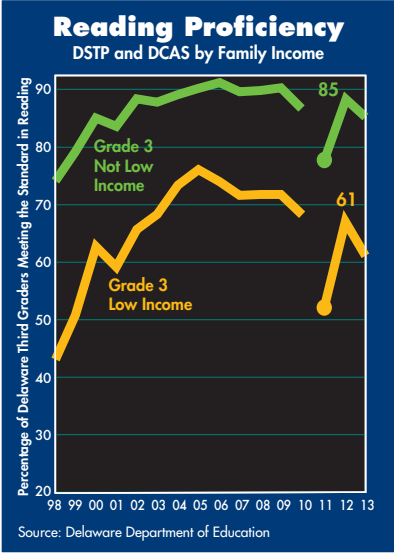
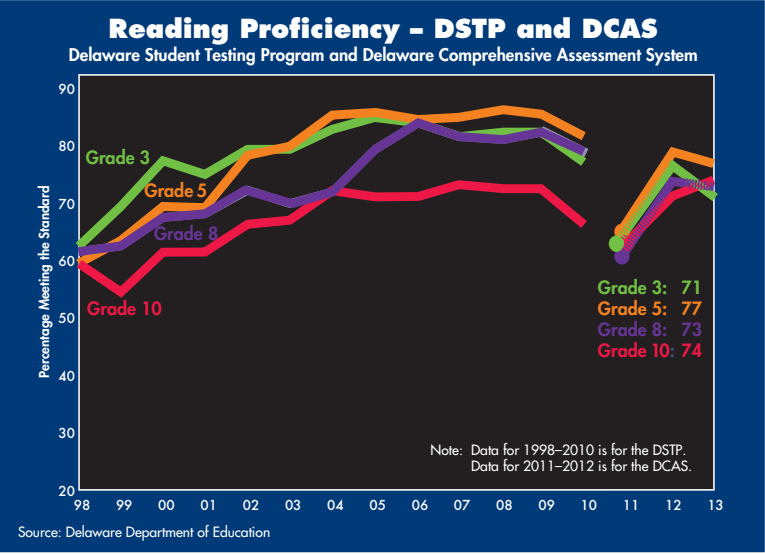


Establishing the conditions that promote successful educational achievement for children begins with quality prenatal care and continues into the early elementary school years. With a strong and healthy beginning, children can more easily stay on track to remain in school and graduate, pursue postsecondary education and training and successfully transition to adulthood. However, there are troubling educational achievement gaps in our state by race and income. Income has a significant impact on educational achievement. Children in low-income families score lower on state testing as well as dropout at a higher rate than that of children from higher income families. Addressing this gap will be key to ensuring our future workforce can compete on a global scale.



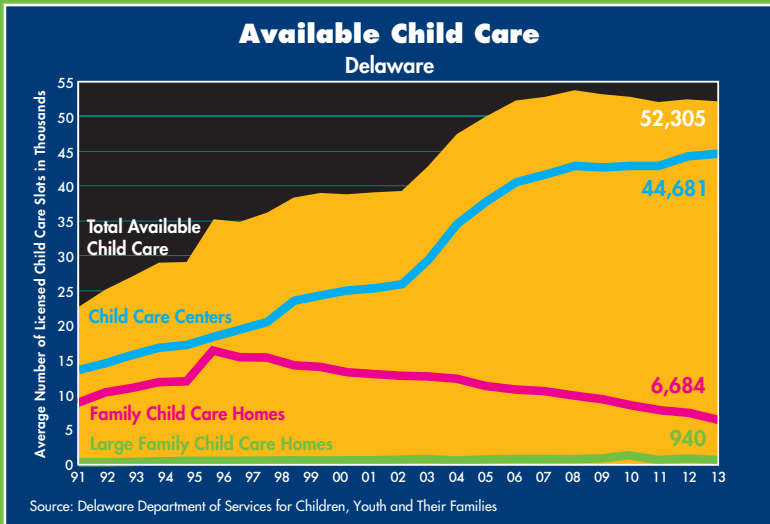
**Did you know?** Studies show that children who are not proficient in reading by the end of third grade are likely to feel alienated from school leading to repercussions felt well into an individual's adulthood. In contrast, children who read proficiently by the end of third grade are far more likely to graduate from high school and have successful careers. Disparities in reading proficiency are greater for children of color, those with disabilities, dual-language learners, and especially for low-income children.

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The First Eight Years, <http://www.aecf.org/-/media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/FirstEightYears/AECFTheFirstEightYears2013.pdf>



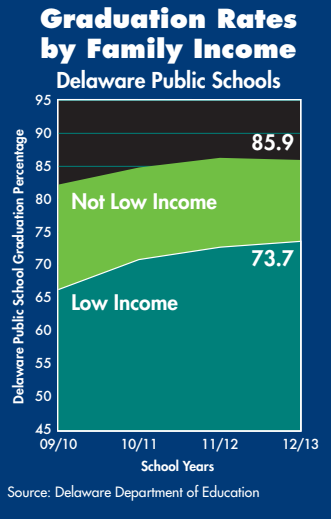
**Put DATA into ACTION:** As part of the federal “Race to the Top” program, Delaware has received over \$50 million from the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant. Delaware has combined the federal with state funds through a \$22 million allocation to the Delaware Stars early education quality ratings systems.

Source: Governor Markell Early Education Highlights, <http://www.wdde.org/51104-markell-education-summit>

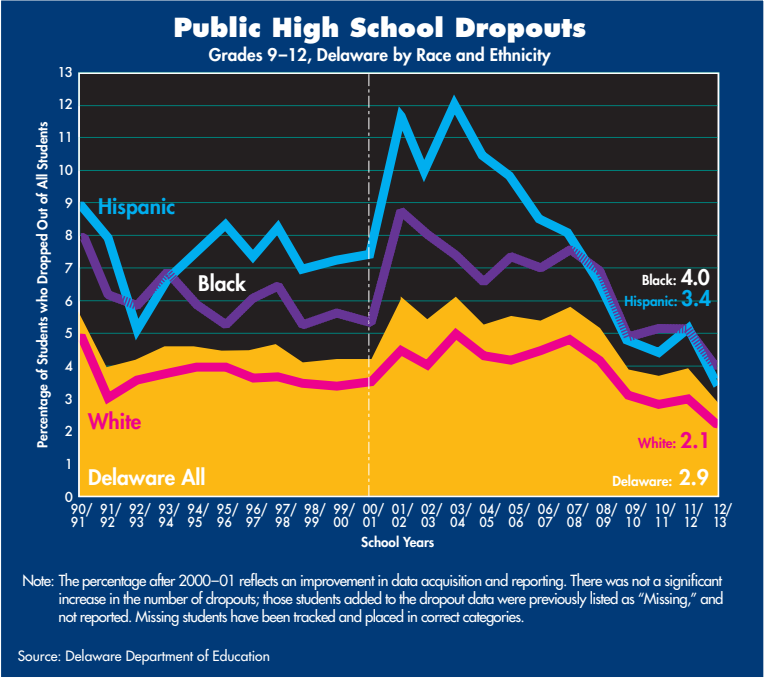


**Did you know?** On average, a high school graduate in Delaware earns \$8,719 more each year than a high school dropout does. In 2011, about 3,500 students in Delaware did not graduate from high school; the lost lifetime earnings for that class of dropouts alone totals \$483 million.

Source: Alliance for Excellent Education, “Delaware’s High Schools” (2012) [http://www.all4ed.org/files/Delaware\\_hs.pdf](http://www.all4ed.org/files/Delaware_hs.pdf)



# Educational Involvement and Achievement



**Put DATA into ACTION:** The World Championship Punkin Chunkin Association (WCPA) is the nonprofit behind the beloved annual event in which professional and amateur engineers alike build a variety of contraptions to hurl pumpkins as far as they can across a field in Sussex County. The WCPA also sponsors a scholarship to high school seniors attending a Sussex County High School, any high school senior who participated in the most recent “Punkin Chunkin”, or any graduate of a Sussex County High School enrolled in a post-secondary school or college majoring in Agri-Science, Mechanical Technology, Engineering, or other related field. For more information about the scholarship or the application, please visit <http://www.punkinchunkin.com/scholarship>





# Family Environment and Resources

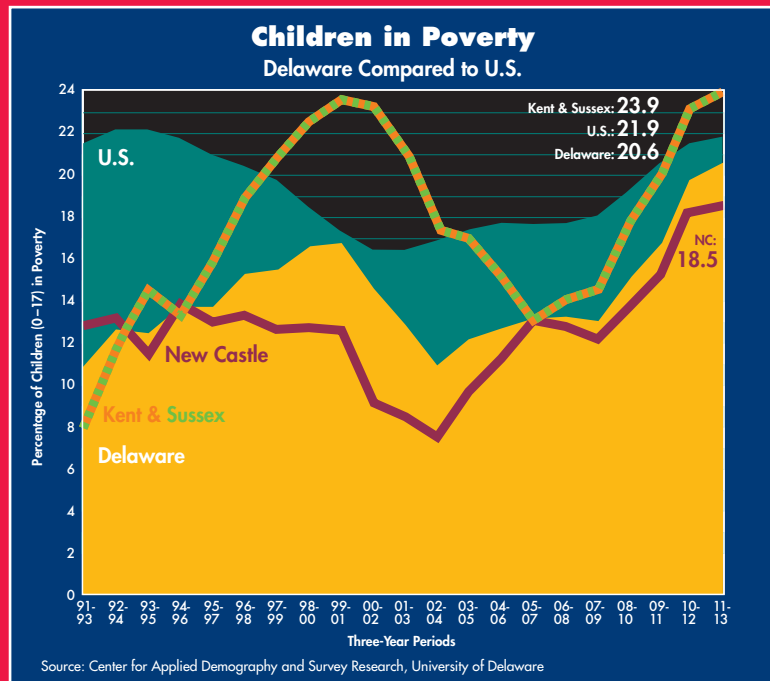


Strong, capable, resourceful families are at the foundation of improving outcomes for children. There is no substitute for families- no institution, program or policy that can successfully rear kids in the absence of strong families. The importance of parents who have the resources, knowledge, time and maturity to dedicate to their children is connected to outcomes of well-being for children. When parents are unemployed or their incomes are low, they may struggle to meet their children's most basic needs: safe housing, quality childcare, access to healthy food and medical care. While the negative effects of poverty on children are troubling in their own right, they also increase the chances of poor outcomes for youth and young adults, such as failure to graduate from high school, teen pregnancy, poor health and lack of secure employment. This knowledge underscores the importance of two-generation strategies that strengthen families by mitigating their underlying economic distress and addressing the well-being of both parents and children.



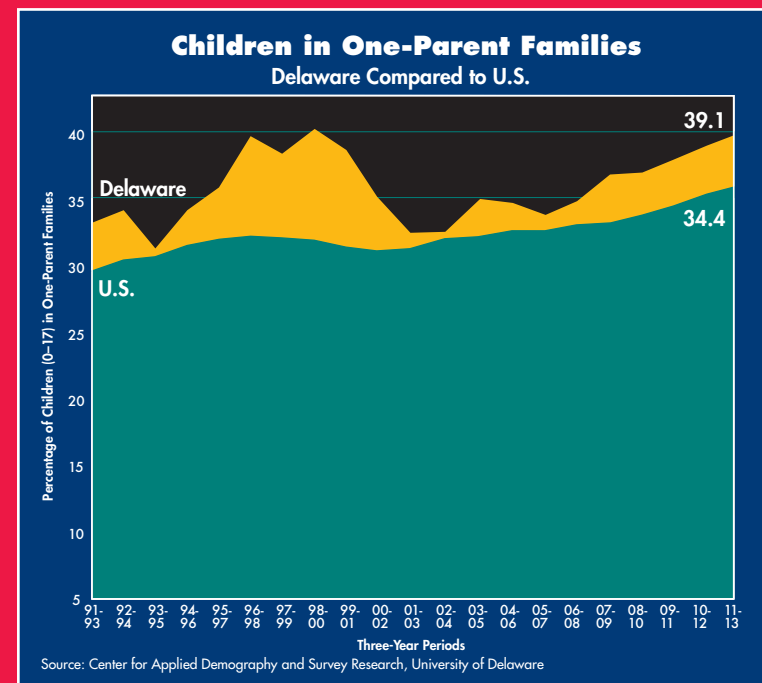
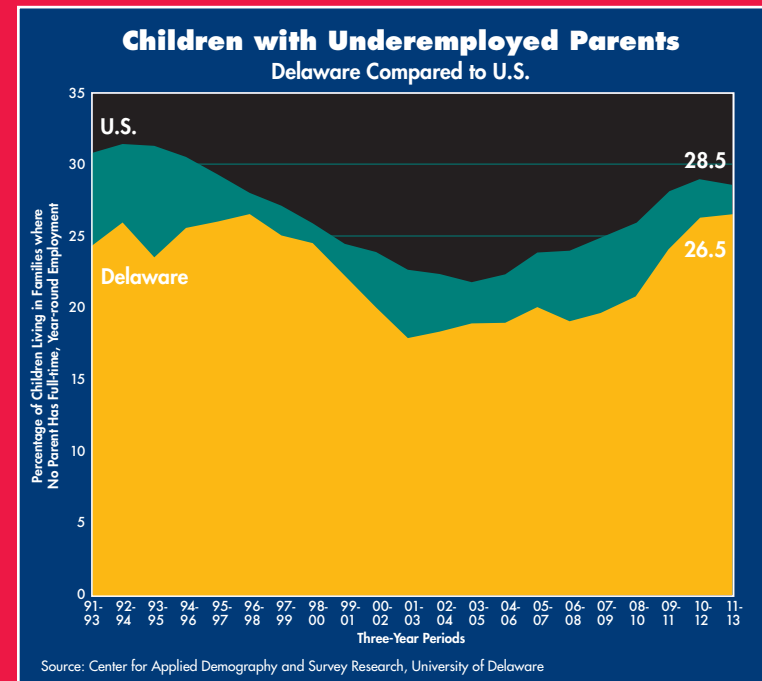
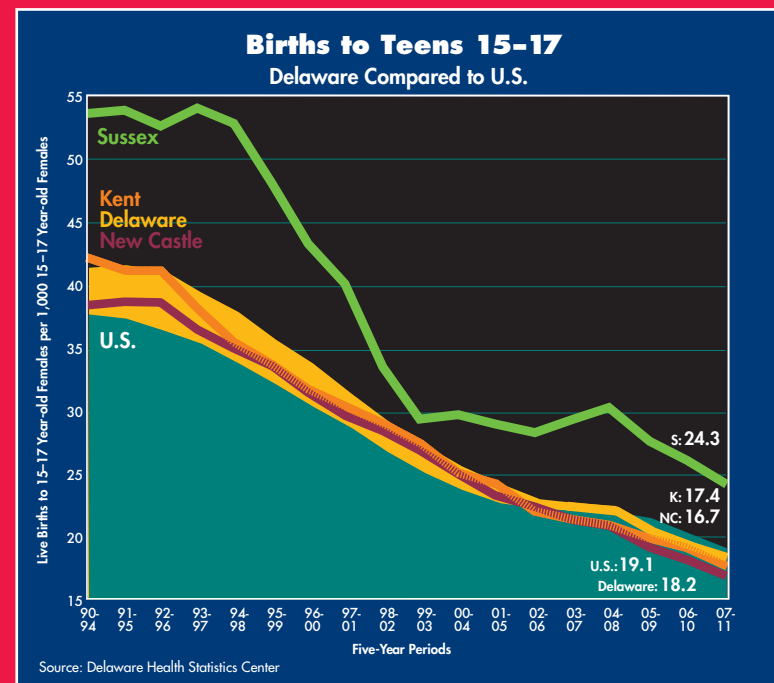
**Did you know?** Despite that New Castle County has the highest average weekly wage (\$1,178 as of early 2013) in the state; the county has a higher unemployment rate than Sussex County. This suggests a higher rate of income inequality in New Castle County than Sussex County or Kent County.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mid-Atlantic Office, <http://www.bls.gov/ro3/qcewdata.htm>



**Did you know?** Research suggests that poverty has a larger negative impact on children's developmental and intellectual abilities than gestational exposure to cocaine.

Source: [http://articles.philly.com/2013-07-22/news/40709969\\_1\\_hallam-hurt-so-called-crack-babies-funded-study](http://articles.philly.com/2013-07-22/news/40709969_1_hallam-hurt-so-called-crack-babies-funded-study)



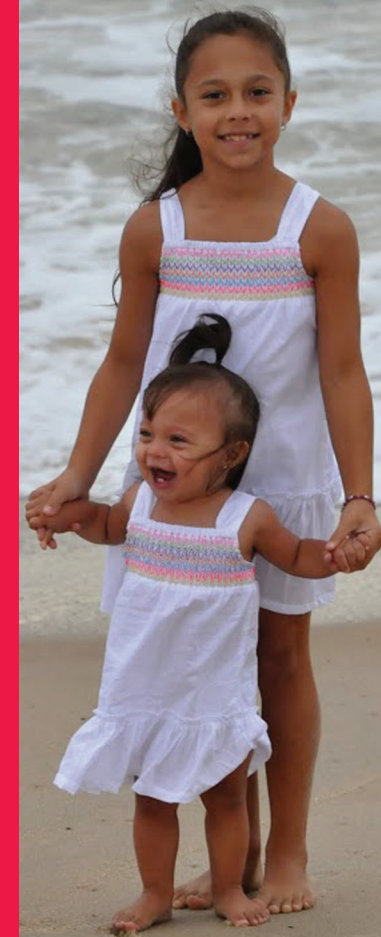
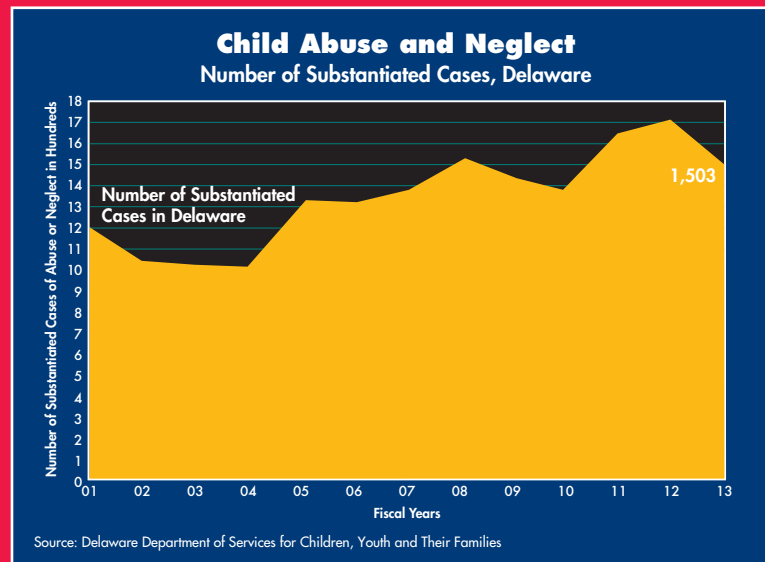
# Family Environment and Resources

**Did you know?** Roughly 1.5 million children in the United States have a parent incarcerated in a state or federal prison. One in every 15 African-American children, 1 in every 42 Hispanic children, and 1 in every 111 white children has a parent in prison.

Source: Child Trends, <http://www.childtrends.org/parents-in-prison-why-keeping-low-level-drug-offenders-in-prison-hurts-kids-and-what-the-justice-department-is-doing-to-help/>

**Put DATA into ACTION:** The Parent Information Center (PIC) provides information primarily through workshops and webinar to thousands of parents and caregivers every year. PIC is the only organization in Delaware charged by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, to provide information and support to parents of children with disabilities from birth to 26 to help them access appropriate education and related services for their children. PIC Parent Consultants receive intensive training from federal and regional sources to ensure that they are providing relevant, useful, and quality information to the families they serve.

Source: Parent Information Center of Delaware, Inc. <http://www.picofdel.org/about-us/our-work.html>





# Community Environment and Resources



Just as children are a part of a family, families are a part of a community. Children have more opportunities to grow up healthy when the community where they live provides strong institutions such as places of worship, small businesses, and parks. Robust communities afford children with positive adult role models and safe places to live, learn, and play. However, not all communities have the resources to provide children with these benefits. Young people who grow up in environments where risk factors are concentrated or where there are inequities in opportunities available are far more likely to experience negative outcomes that are both tragic for themselves and potentially devastating to society as a whole. Children residing in distressed communities, which are disproportionately communities of color, are at risk of poor economic, educational, social and health outcomes. Investing in community level support and infrastructure enhances opportunity for our children by increasing protective factors that lead to a brighter future.

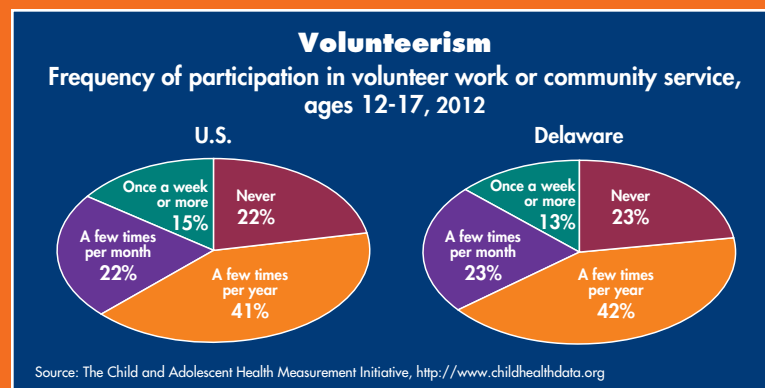
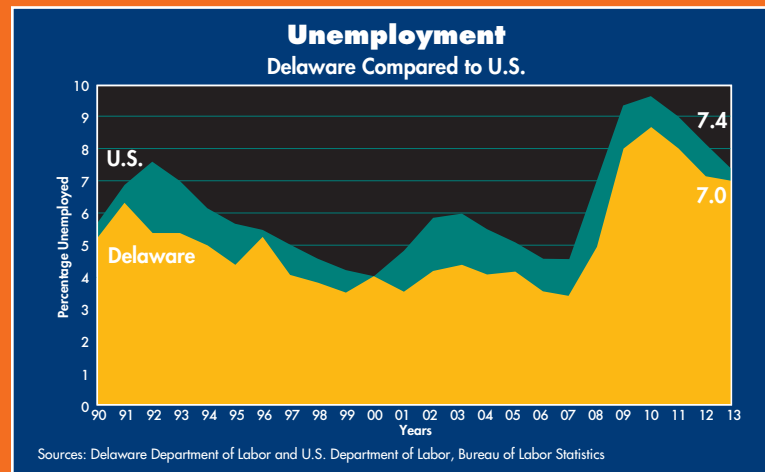
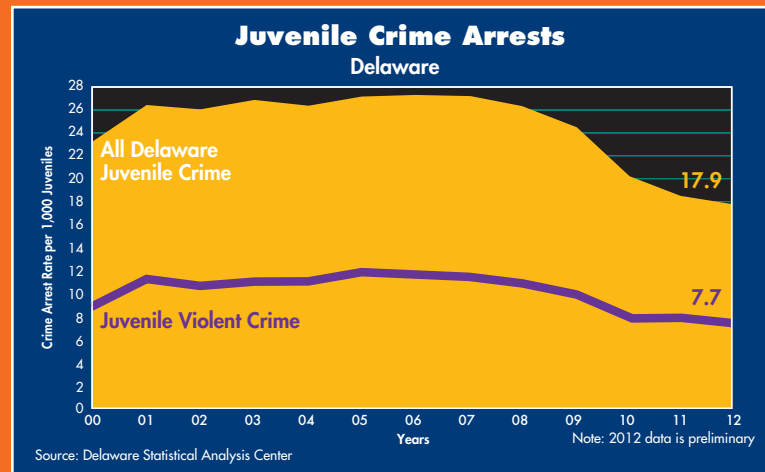
## Did you know?

The IM40 Young Health Program is a social movement that will enable vulnerable youth age 12-15 to increase their inventory of developmental assets. With the help of caring adults in community asset building programs, the IM40 Movement is a statewide effort to build supports for Delaware's young people.

Source: [www.im40.org](http://www.im40.org)

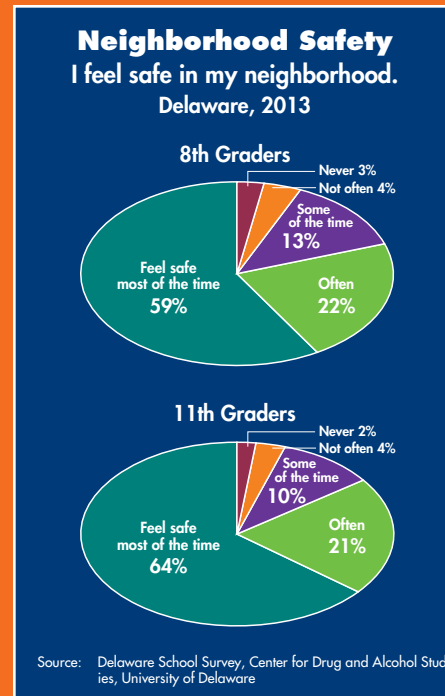
**Put DATA into ACTION:** The Delaware Department of Labor has received a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide job training and job search assistance to displaced workers who have been challenged over the long-term by residual effects from the economic downturn. The funding expands training for unemployed individuals to acquire industry-recognized credentials that lead to new career opportunities. It supports on-the-job training, customized training, registered apprenticeships and other approaches that connect individuals with employers, with a focus on providing these services to those in longer term unemployment. Delaware defines this as individuals who have been unemployed for a minimum of 27 weeks.

Source: State of Delaware, <http://news.delaware.gov/2013/06/27/delaware-receives-1-4m-in-federal-grant-to-train-dislocated-workers/>

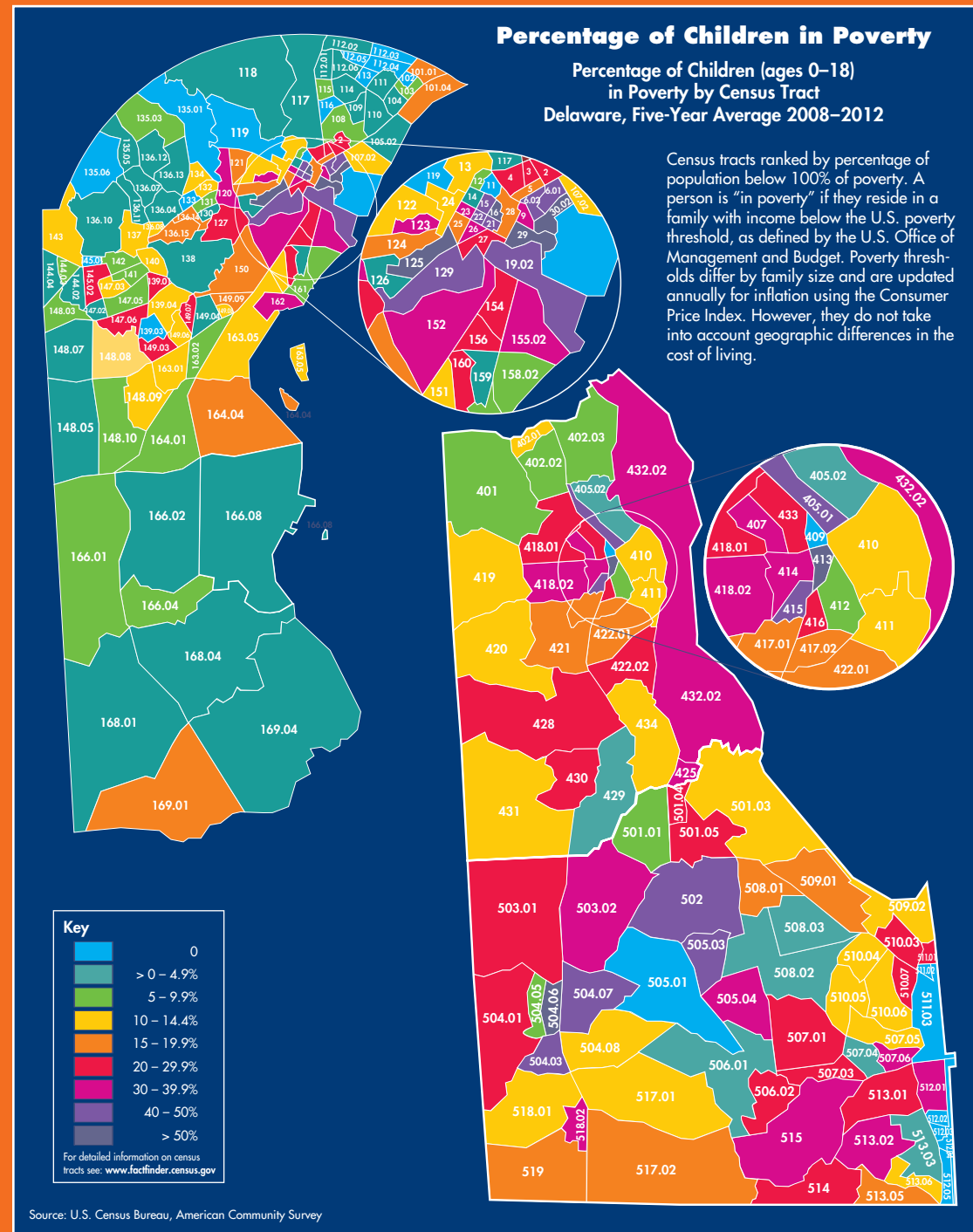


**Did you know?** The amount of Delaware public school children who receive federal free or reduced lunch has steadily increased. In 2000 the number of children was approximately 32.3% and in 2013, the number grew to approximately 51.9%.

Source: Delaware Department of Education



# Community Environment and Resources





# Conclusion



This year's KIDS COUNT in Delaware Fact Book provides some hopeful signs. The latest data show continued incremental improvement in educational achievement and child health and safety as well as a record low level of teen births. At the same time, children and families are still coping with the effects of the recession and continued high unemployment. Child poverty continued to climb in 2013.

To improve outcomes for the next generation, serious challenges remain. The gulf continues to widen between children growing up in strong, economically secure families who are embedded in thriving communities and children who are not. And, while Black and Hispanic children continue to fall disproportionately into the latter group, greater numbers of children of all racial and ethnic groups are facing conditions that can impede long-term success. Improving outcomes for all children is essential for our state to remain strong, stable and competitive.

*Did you know?* Kids who eat regularly with their families are less likely to snack on unhealthy foods and more likely to eat fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Beyond health and nutrition, family meals provide a valuable opportunity to reconnect.

This summary represents just a glimpse into the well-being of Delaware's children. It is our hope and intent that this data will provide the starting point and momentum around investing in our state's future. We call on you to share this report, go online for the digital fact book, or create your own data story using the resources in the KIDS COUNT

Data Center. We can close opportunity gaps and reduce or eliminate disparities by investing in quality programs and services for children that are built on credible data and research. Smart investments in strategies with a proven record can expand opportunity for children to reach their full potential, benefiting us all.

**Put DATA into ACTION**

- Be a mentor to an at-risk teen • Listen to a child
- Read a book to a child • Thank a teacher •
- Teach children nonviolent ways to resolve conflict
- Learn about the well-being of children •
- Take a child seriously • Promote youth leadership
- Have your children immunized • Be a role model
- Show love to a child who is not your own •
- Ask your local school how to be a tutor or mentor
- Show interest in the education of all children •

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Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

**Tibo Enev**  
Nemours Health and Prevention Services

**Roberta E. Gealt**  
Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies  
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Delaware State Police

**Steven S. Martin**  
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Center for Applied Demography  
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University of Delaware

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## Friends of KIDS COUNT

**Timothy K. Barnekov, PhD**  
Former Dean  
College of Human Services, Education  
and Public Policy  
University of Delaware

**Don Berry**  
Delaware Department of Education

**Thomas P. Eichler**  
Former Cabinet Secretary  
for DHSS and DSCYF

**The Honorable Jane Maroney**  
Former Member of the  
Delaware House of Representatives

**Anthony M. Policastro, MD**  
Nanticoke Hospital

**The Honorable Terry Schooley**  
Former Member of the  
Delaware House of Representatives

## Thanks for the data:

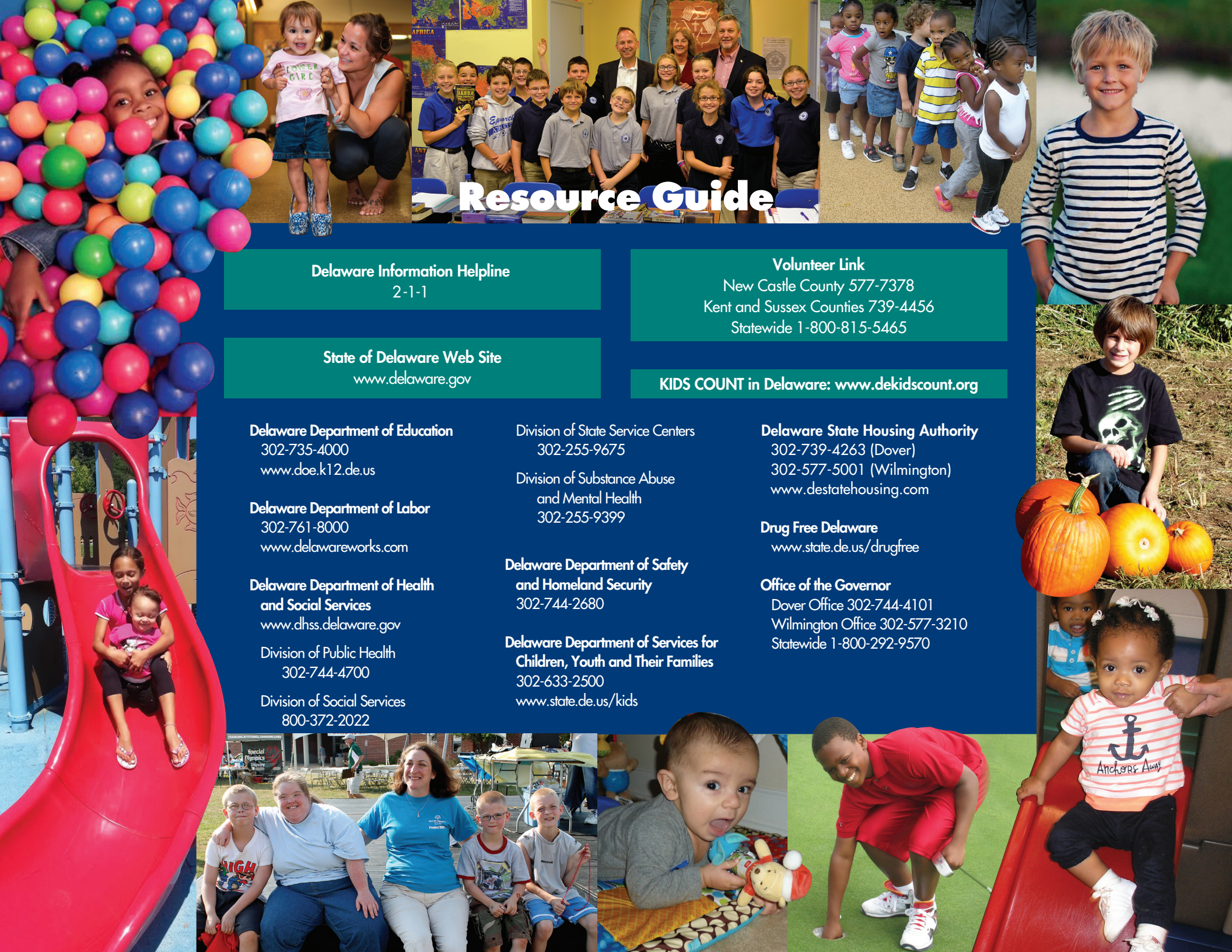
- Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research
- Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies
- Children and Families First
- Delaware Department of Education
- Delaware Dept. of Health and Social Services
- Delaware Department of Labor
- Delaware Department of Public Safety
- Delaware Department of Services 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



*A special thank you to the Delaware children and families whose photos are used throughout this publication.*







# Resource Guide

**Delaware Information Helpline**  
2-1-1

**State of Delaware Web Site**  
[www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov)

## Volunteer Link

New Castle County 577-7378  
Kent and Sussex Counties 739-4456  
Statewide 1-800-815-5465

**KIDS COUNT in Delaware:** [www.dekidscount.org](http://www.dekidscount.org)

**Delaware Department of Education**  
302-735-4000  
[www.doe.k12.de.us](http://www.doe.k12.de.us)

**Delaware Department of Labor**  
302-761-8000  
[www.delawareworks.com](http://www.delawareworks.com)

**Delaware Department of Health  
and Social Services**  
[www.dhss.delaware.gov](http://www.dhss.delaware.gov)

Division of Public Health  
302-744-4700

Division of Social Services  
800-372-2022

Division of State Service Centers  
302-255-9675

Division of Substance Abuse  
and Mental Health  
302-255-9399

**Delaware Department of Safety  
and Homeland Security**  
302-744-2680

**Delaware Department of Services for  
Children, Youth and Their Families**  
302-633-2500  
[www.state.de.us/kids](http://www.state.de.us/kids)

**Delaware State Housing Authority**  
302-739-4263 (Dover)  
302-577-5001 (Wilmington)  
[www.destatehousing.com](http://www.destatehousing.com)

**Drug Free Delaware**  
[www.state.de.us/drugfree](http://www.state.de.us/drugfree)

**Office of the Governor**  
Dover Office 302-744-4101  
Wilmington Office 302-577-3210  
Statewide 1-800-292-9570

