



KIDS COUNT in Delaware Research Highlights



The Association Between Health Insurance & Health Indicators

November 2008

A number of indicators of children's health have been collected regularly for each State through KIDS COUNT via the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Many of these indicators represent important health outcomes of children, the focus of this study. The purpose of this study was to undertake a longitudinal assessment of whether differences in the health insurance coverage, especially those rendered through public policies, among states are associated with the considerable variation in the selected health outcomes across states over a period of time. Of special interest was also the linkage between health outcomes and both income inequality and state social welfare policy efforts. Social and demographic variables were used in the study as determinants of health outcomes since they represent either need of or demand for health care, as well as contribute directly to individual health status. The full version of this report can be found at: www.udel.edu/ccrs/knowledge.html.



Maternal and Child Health Indicators Reviewed Include:

★ Negative Birth Outcomes ★

Infant Mortality
Prenatal Care
Pre-term Births
Low Birth-Weight
Very Low Birth-Weight

★ Social Dimensions of Pregnancy ★

Teen Births
Teen Births by Age Group 15-17
Teen Births by Age Group 18-19
Teen Births by Age Group 15-19
Births to Unmarried Women
Births to Teen Mothers
Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy

★ Children's Health Issues ★

Child Deaths
Teen Deaths
Two-Year-Olds Immunized
Overweight Children
Children with Asthma

Selected Findings from the Analysis...

- ★ States with a higher percentage of uninsured children had higher infant mortality rates.
- ★ States with a higher percentage of uninsured children had proportionally more women who gave birth with limited prenatal care.
- ★ Contrary to most recent literature, income inequality did not prove to be related to most indicators of child well-being. Among social/demographic indicators, family income and racial composition are important determinants of child well-being.
- ★ States which have lower family income also have poorer birth outcomes.
- ★ States with more children living in poverty have higher rates of infant mortality and fewer women receiving prenatal care.

