



KIDS COUNT IN DELAWARE FAMILIES COUNT IN DELAWARE

Executive Summary 2016



KIDS
COUNT



A Message from KIDS COUNT



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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GOVERNOR

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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 each child to reach his or her full potential. Children who grow up strong and healthy, are challenged and 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.

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, non-profit youth-serving organizations, and individual advocates, stewards, and mentors. Together, they understand that investments in our kids are good investments for us all. They attract parents who are considering where they want to settle down, invest in a home, and engage in their community. Companies planning to relocate or expand are looking for a state that has a supportive environment for the families of their employees.

Thanks to the collective attention of many, Delaware's children today are better prepared than at any time in our history to live fulfilling lives and to thrive in our 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 our schools and record numbers of students are graduating from high school.

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 preventative care and encourage healthy diet and exercise. And we must continue to be innovative while investing in education and workforce development. The KIDS COUNT in Delaware Fact Book is an invaluable data source that charts the health and wellbeing of our kids over time and helps guide policymakers, program providers, advocates, and funders in directing resources to areas where we can continue to make a positive impact. I appreciate the work of the many partners, led by the University of Delaware, which make its work possible.

Sincerely,

Jack Markell,
Governor



Dear Friends,

Why are Delaware's infant mortality rates consistently among the worst in the nation?
Why are an increasing number of our state's youngest living in poverty when we're years into recovery from the Great Recession? What influences our state's high cancer rate?
Why do we have disparities in outcomes by race and ethnicity or by income levels among many of our indicators? What factors yet to be identified should be included in our 'social determinants of health' inventory?

For some questions, we can only speculate. But credible data can help us find many answers we seek.

KIDS COUNT in Delaware is an organization that exists to answer questions that aren't being asked, to catch the red flags in data, to shed light on the issues that have the greatest impact on the constituents that matter most. And we do. In recent years, we've reported on a growing proportion of our children who experience poverty in their formative years, on quality early childhood programs which have a measurable impact on school readiness for our most at-risk preschoolers and on disparities in outcomes by race/ethnicity and income levels which are prevalent throughout the data we collect.

Recently, national media has shone a spotlight on examples of how data can be used to empower communities. For instance, in Flint, MI an EPA report found lead levels in water at 13,200 parts per billion when the federally accepted action level was 15. Anecdotes and complaints may have gone unheeded, but data on elevated levels of lead in the bloodstream weren't ignored. That's the power of credible data. And when thousands in West Virginia were left sick from PFOA—“only one of more than 60,000 synthetic chemicals that companies produced and released into the world without regulatory oversight,” data on the concentration levels of fluorochemicals factored heavily into a class action suit headed by Rob Bilott. (Bilott is the subject of The New York Times Magazine feature, “The lawyer who became DuPont's worst nightmare.”)

But data alone are not enough. Data need advocacy to drive change. And change begins in the simplest, most obvious of ways: by wanting more. That's the belief and driving force of KIDS COUNT in Delaware. By providing policy makers 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. This is why we work so closely and collaboratively with a data committee composed of state agencies and nonprofit organizations to determine what we track, measure and analyze. We have a shared and vested interest in making meaningful investments for children in Delaware.

If we aren't meeting the most basic needs of our children—our future, our very hope for a stronger world and a better tomorrow—then we are failing at the deepest possible level. There are no data that could ever quantify all that we will lose.

Sincerely,

Kelli Thompson, President, Board
Steve Martin, Chair, Data Committee
Janice Barlow, Director

KIDS COUNT® in Delaware

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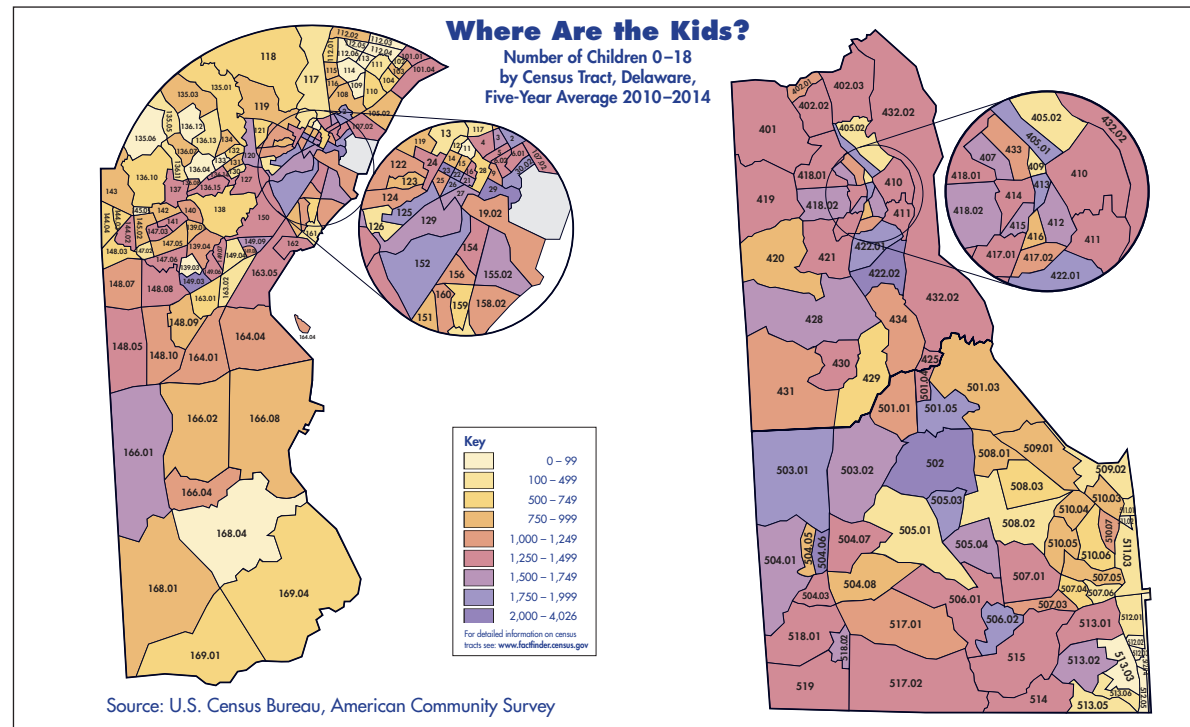
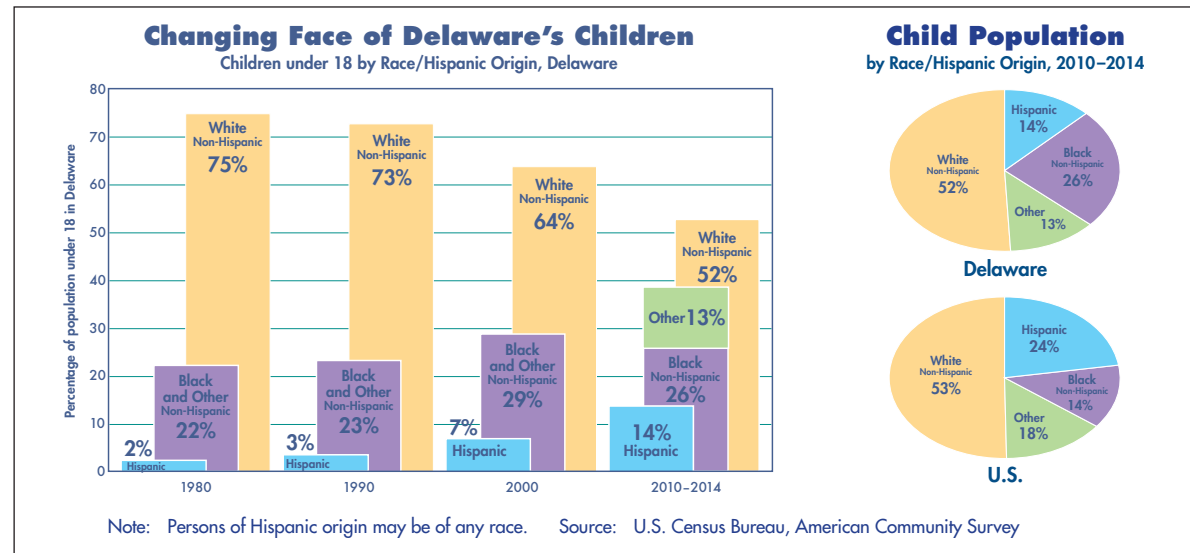
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Delaware Demographics

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

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS

AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL BIRTHS

2009-2013.....8.5%

IMPROVED

2004-2008.....9.1%



INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF INFANTS
LESS THAN 1 YEAR OLD
PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

2009-2013.....7.7

IMPROVED

2004-2008.....8.4



CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (0-17)
WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

2013-2015.....6.7%

IMPROVED

2008-2010.....8.5%

EDUCATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

GRADUATION RATES

PERCENTAGE OF JUNE GRADUATES
COMPARED TO THE 9TH GRADE CLASS
FOUR YEARS PREVIOUS

2014-2015.....84.3%

WORSENE

2009-2010.....86.7%



3RD GRADE READING PROFICIENCY

PERCENTAGE OF DELAWARE THIRD GRADERS
MEETING THE STANDARD IN READING

2014-2015.....54%

*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.



8TH GRADE MATH PROFICIENCY

PERCENTAGE OF DELAWARE EIGHTH GRADERS
MEETING THE STANDARD IN MATH

2014-2015.....35%

*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.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (0-17)
IN POVERTY

2013-2015.....20.1%

WORSENERD

2008-2010.....15.2%



MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

MEDIAN INCOME IN THOUSANDS OF
US DOLLARS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY FAMILY TYPE

2013-2015.....1-PARENT \$24,897
2-PARENT \$85,088

WORSENERD

2008-2010.....1-PARENT \$28,599
2-PARENT \$85,393



ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PERCENTAGE OF TEENS (16-19)
NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL AND
NOT WORKING

2013-2015.....7.5%

IMPROVED

2008-2010.....8.4%

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

TEEN BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS TO 15-19 YEAR-OLD FEMALES
PER 1,000 15-19 YEAR-OLD FEMALES

2009-2013.....30.5

IMPROVED

2004-2008.....42.6



CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (0-17) IN
ONE-PARENT FAMILIES

2013-2015.....36.8%

WORSENERD

2008-2010.....35.6%



CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

CHILDREN WITH SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS
OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT PER 1,000 CHILDREN
AGES BIRTH TO 17

2015.....6.8

IMPROVED

2010.....9.4

Health and Health Behaviors



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)

Source: <http://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=low-birthweight-90-P02382>

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.

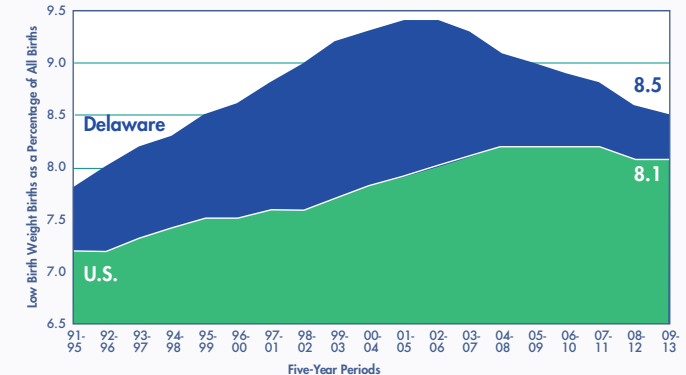
Did you know?

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.

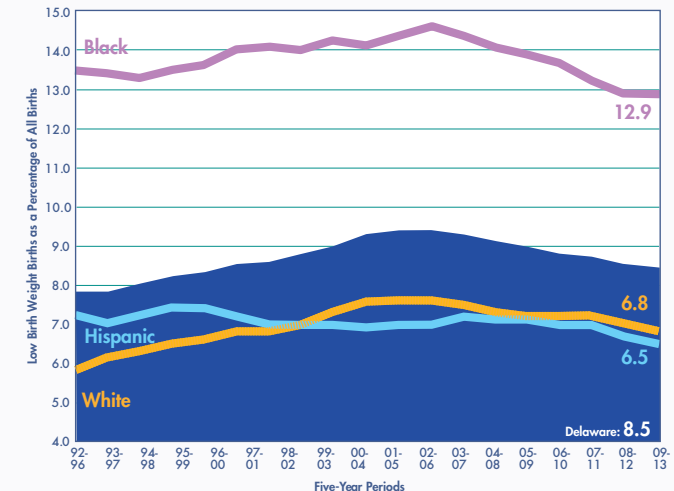
Source: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa13/perinatal-health-status-indicators/p/infant-mortality.html>

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS

Delaware Compared to U.S.



Delaware by Race/Ethnicity

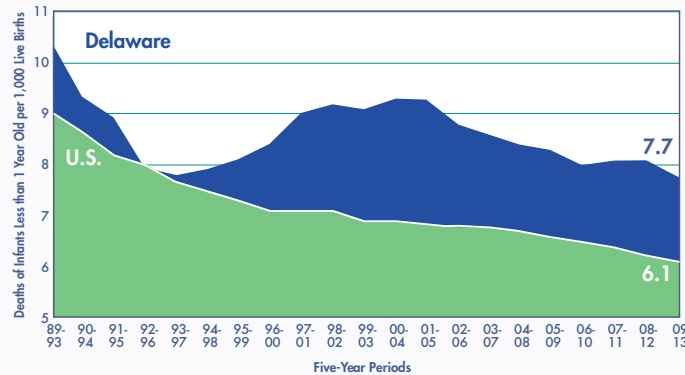


Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

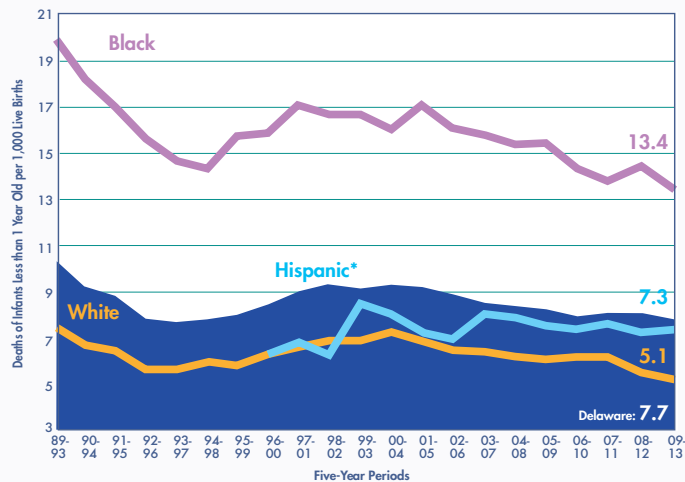
Health and Health Behaviors

INFANT MORTALITY

Delaware Compared to U.S.



Delaware by Race/Ethnicity

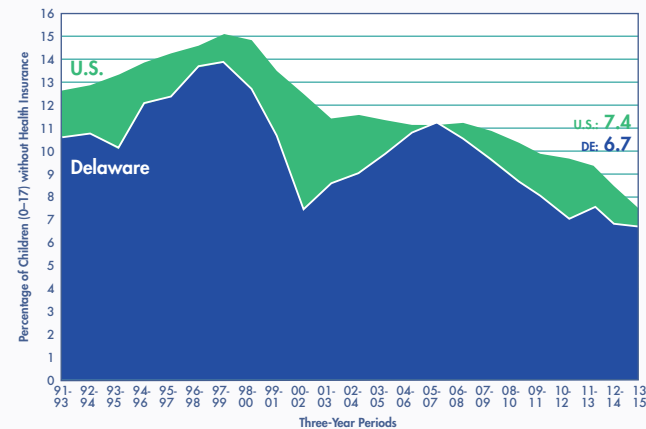


Note: Infant Mortality Rate – number of deaths occurring in the first year of life per 1,000 live births

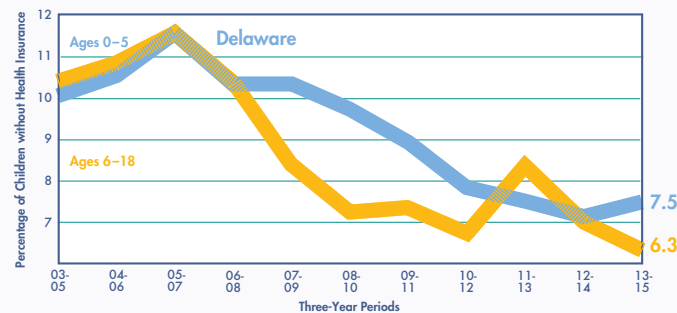
Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Delaware Compared to U.S.



Delaware by Age



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



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.

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_258.pdf

Educational Involvement and Achievement



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.

Source: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/167/2013-2014%20Dropout%20Report.pdf>



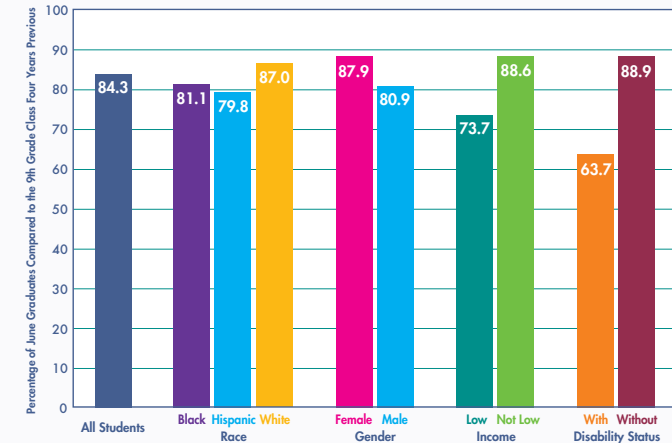
The first five years of a child's life are an important time for growth and development, and lay out the foundations for language, academic ability, habits and socio-emotional development. Research shows that access to high quality early care and education programs help young children grow up ready to 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 invest 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.

GRADUATION RATES

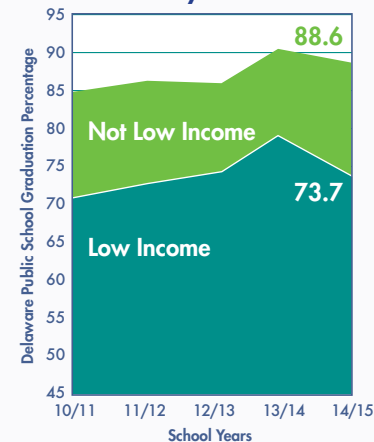
School Year 2014/15



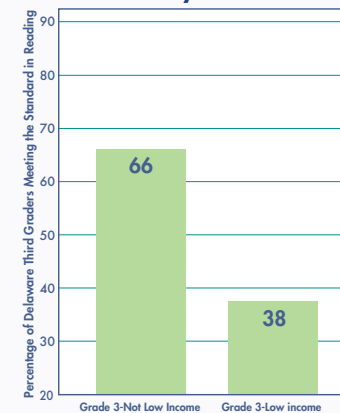
Note: Graduation Rate – The graduation rate is a cohort rate that reflects the percent of 9th grade students who graduated within four years from a Delaware public school. The rate takes into account dropouts. For example, the rate for 2014–2015 reflects the percent of incoming 9th graders in September of 2011 who graduated in June of 2015.

Source: Delaware Department of Education

Delaware Public Schools by Family Income



Reading Proficiency by Family Income

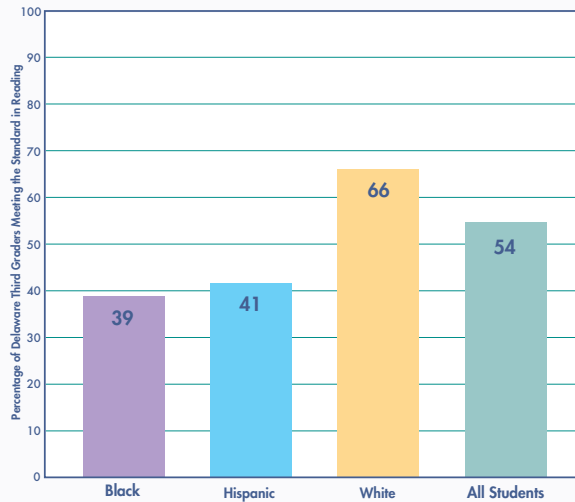


Source: Delaware Department of Education

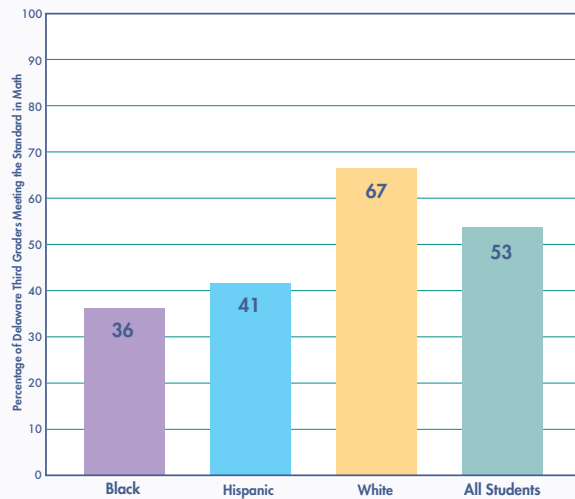
Educational Involvement and Achievement

3RD GRADE PROFICIENCY

Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results



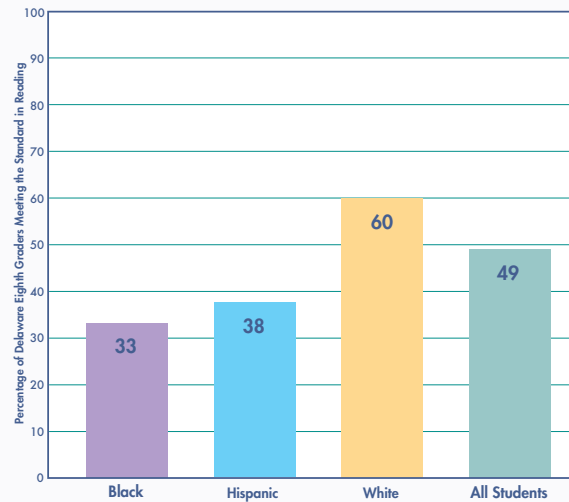
Math Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results



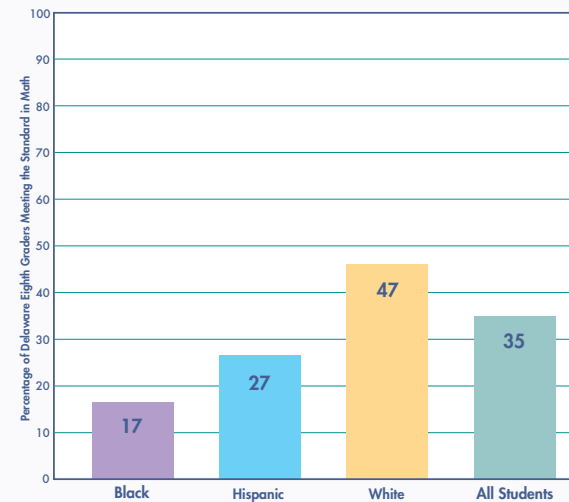
Source: Delaware Department of Education

8TH GRADE PROFICIENCY

Reading Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results



Math Proficiency by Race/Ethnicity
2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results



Notes: "All" includes Native American and Asian.
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.



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.

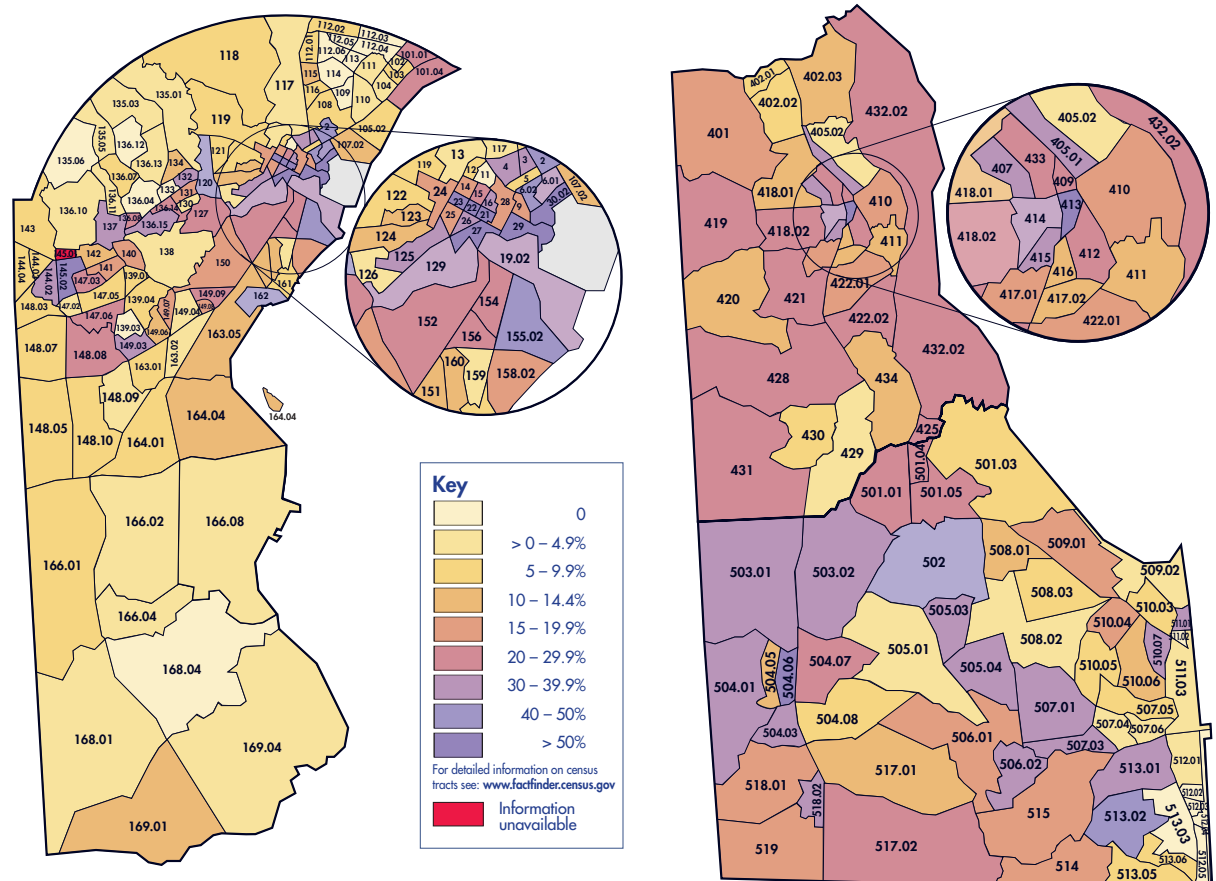
The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the nation's most effective anti-poverty programs for working families. Delaware can enrich its EITC policy by offering a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit. The EITC in Delaware is non-refundable, meaning it reduces the tax liability to families but 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.



CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Percentage of Children in Poverty

Percentage of Children (ages 0–18) in Poverty by Census Tract • Delaware, Five-Year Average 2010–2014



Census tracts ranked by percentage of population below 100% of poverty. A person is "in poverty" if they reside in a family with income below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Poverty thresholds differ by family size and are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. However, they do not take into account geographic differences in the cost of living.

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

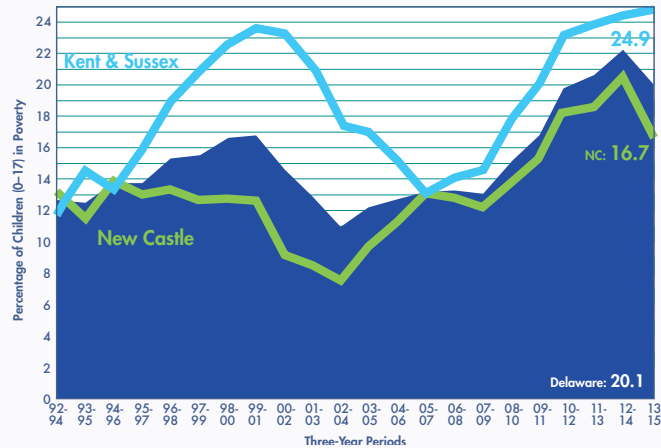
Did You Know?

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: <http://www.childrendefense.org/library/state-of-americas-children/2014-soac.pdf>

Economic Security

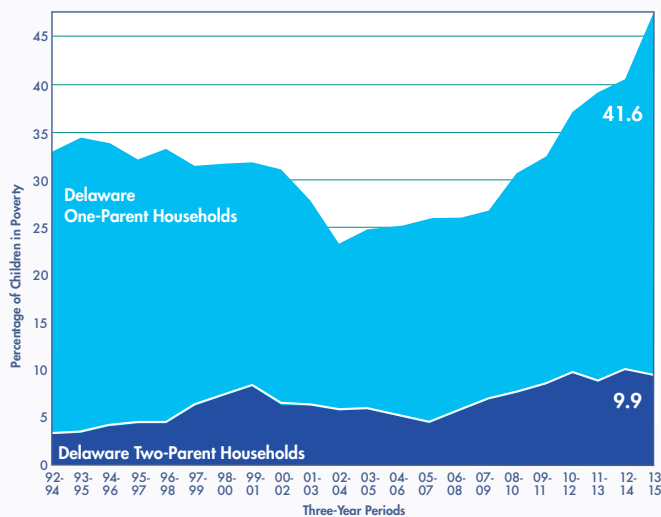
Delaware and Counties



Kent and Sussex County data are not available separately.

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

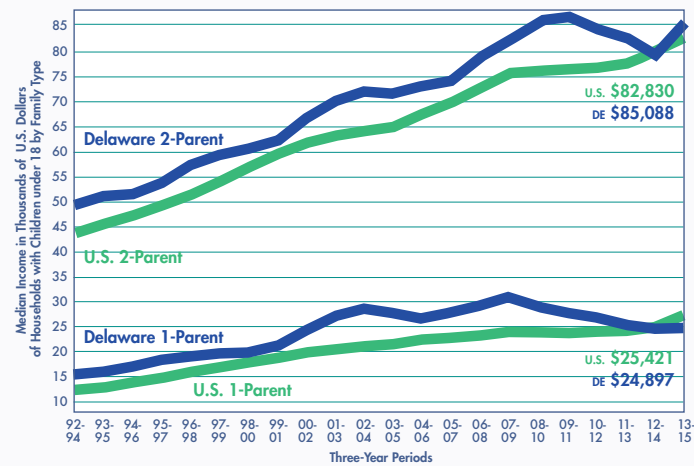
Children in Poverty by Household Structure



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

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

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

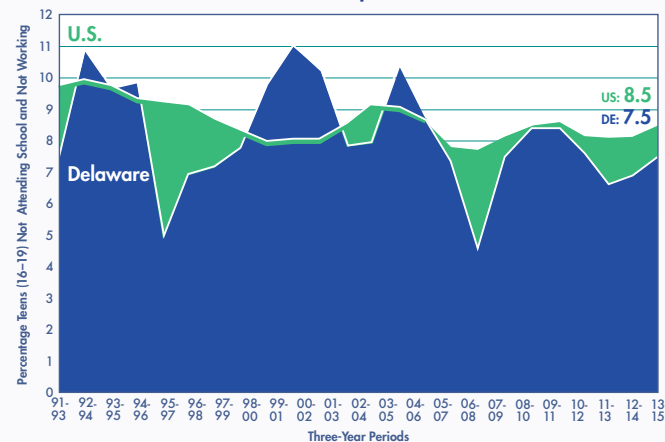


Source: Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research, University of Delaware



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



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.

Source: <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=children-in-poverty>

Did You Know?

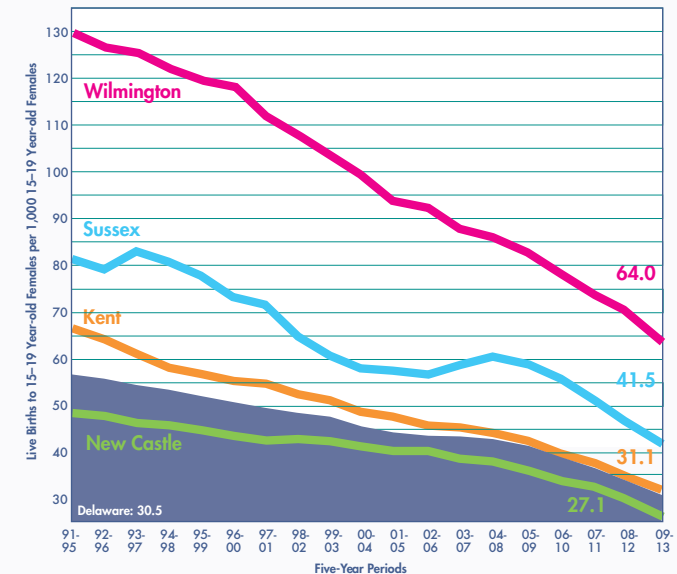
Pregnancy and childbirth are major contributors to high school dropout rates among teen girls. Only about 50% of teenage mothers receive their high school diploma by age 22, versus approximately 90% of women who did not experience teenage parenthood.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>

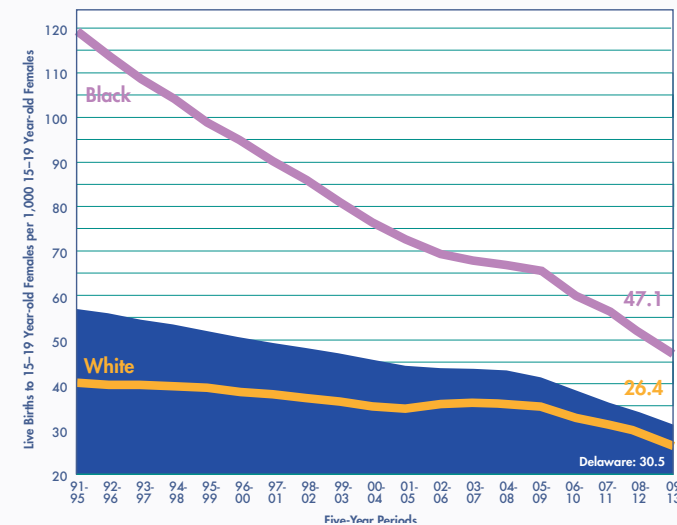


TEEN BIRTHS

Births to Teens 15-19 Delaware, Counties, and Wilmington



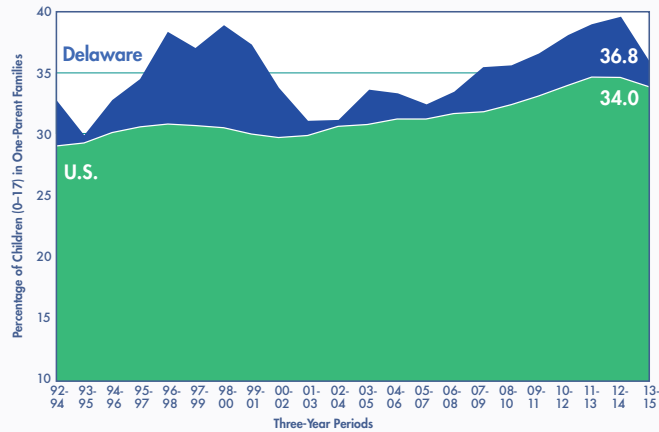
Births to Teens 15-19 Delaware by Race



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

CHILDREN IN ONE-PARENT FAMILIES

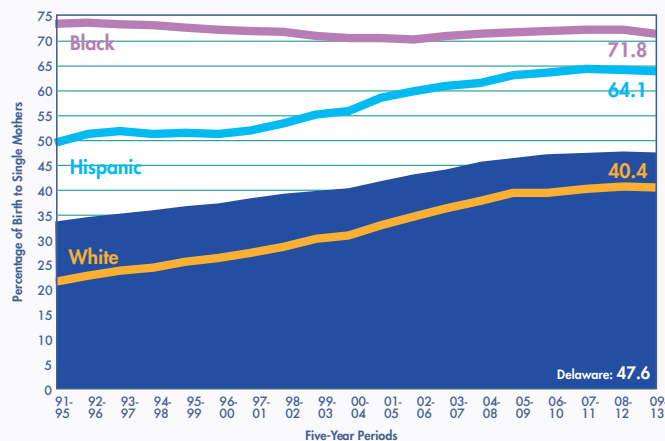
Children in One-Parent Families—Delaware Compared to U.S.



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

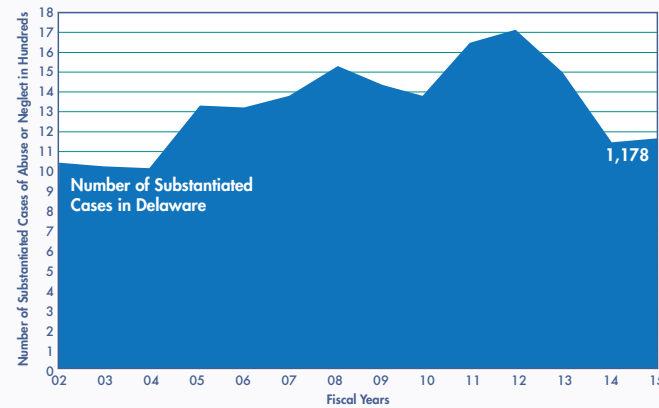
Births to Single Mothers—Delaware by Race/Hispanic Origin



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

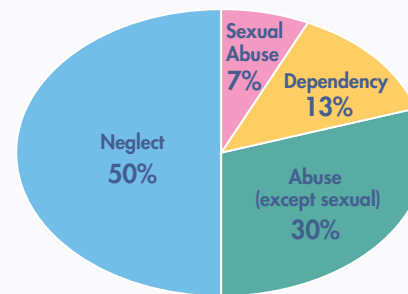
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Number of Substantiated Cases



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

Types of Abuse and Neglect—Delaware Fiscal Year 2015



Types of Abuse and Neglect	Number of Substantiated Cases
Abuse (except sexual)	358
Neglect	585
Sexual Abuse	86
Dependency	149
Total Substantiated Cases:	1,178

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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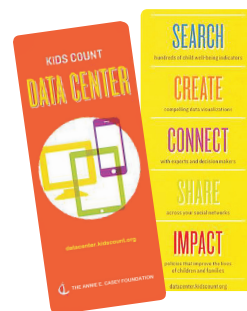
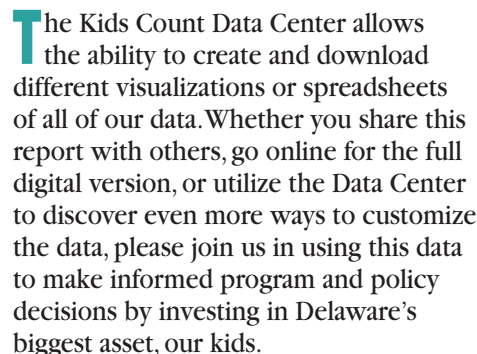
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Thanks for the data:

- Center for Applied Demography
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- Center for Drug and Health Studies
- Children and Families First
- Delaware Department of Education
- Delaware Dept. of Health and Social
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- Delaware Department of Labor
- Delaware Department of Public Safety
- Delaware Department of Services for
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- Delaware Health Statistics Center
- Delaware Population Consortium
- Delaware State Housing Authority
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Nemours Health and Prevention Services
- Statistical Analysis Center



<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

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www.dekidscount.org

Delaware Information Helpline
2-1-1

State of Delaware Web Site
www.delaware.gov

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

Delaware Department of Health
and Social Services
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 Education
302-735-4000
www.doe.k12.de.us

Delaware Department of Labor
302-761-8000
www.delawareworks.com

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

Delaware State Housing
Authority
302-739-4263 (Dover)
302-577-5001 (Wilmington)
www.destatehousing.com

Drug Free Delaware
www.state.de.us/drugfree

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

