

Improving Indicators for Children and Families in Georgia

Tracking the status of children using Georgia KIDS COUNT data is only one part of the equation for securing the well-being of children and families. Improving indicators by just 10 percent paves the way for a brighter future for Georgia.

	Children in Poverty	Infant Mortality	Teen Births	High-School Dropouts
Definition	The percentage of children living in poverty is the proportion of all children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level —\$22,050 for a family of four in 2009.	The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.	The teen birth rate is the number of births to girls ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 in this age group.	The high-school dropout rate is the percentage of youths ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high-school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included.
Where we stand	We rank 35th in the nation. 22% (or 568,324) of Georgia's children live in poverty.	We rank 42nd in the nation. 8.0 per 1,000 (or 1,206) infants in Georgia die before age 1.	We rank 38th in the nation. 52 per 1,000 (or 17,273) births are to Georgia's girls ages 15 to 19.	We rank 29th in the nation. 7% (or 44,884) of youth ages 16 to 19 drop out of high school.
What it will take to improve by 10%	The number of children in poverty will have to decrease by 56,832 to achieve a 20% child poverty rate.	The number of infants dying before age 1 will have to decrease by 120 to achieve an infant mortality rate of 7.2 per 1,000.	The number of teen births will have to decrease by 1,727 to achieve a teen birth rate of 47 per 1,000.	The number of teens dropping out of school will have to decrease by 6,500 to achieve a high-school dropout rate of 6%.
What that means per county	An average of 357 fewer children in poverty per county.	An average of 1 infant death prevented per county.	An average of 11 fewer teen births per county.	An average of 41 fewer high-school dropouts per county.
What it will take to be the best	We will need to reduce the number of poor children by 288,404 to attain an 11% child poverty rate. New Hampshire is best in the nation at 11%.	We will need to reduce the number of infants dying in their first year by 481 to attain an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000. Washington is best in the nation at 4.8 per 1,000.	We will need to reduce the number of teen births by 10,605 to attain a birth rate of 20 per 1,000 teens. New Hampshire and Massachusetts are the best in the nation at 20 per 1,000.	We will need to reduce the number of dropouts by 26,845 to attain a high-school dropout rate of 3%. New Hampshire and New Jersey are the best in the nation at 3%.

Data Note: Child poverty and high-school dropout rates are based on 2009 U.S. Census estimates; infant mortality rates are based on 2007 data and teen birth rates are based on 2008 data.

Georgia KIDS COUNT is supported through funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Visit gafcp.org to access the Georgia KIDS COUNT Data Center, the most comprehensive collection of data, research, and information on Georgia's children, families, and communities.