

June 24, 2013

Contact:

Shannon Cotsoradis  
President and CEO  
785-232-0550  
shannon@kac.org

## **KIDS COUNT report shows Kansas governor's vision for reduced childhood poverty not yet realized**

TOPEKA – Nineteen percent of Kansas children are living below the poverty line, according to the 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book, released today by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Especially alarming is the rate at which the percentage of children living in areas of concentrated poverty is growing. In 2000, only 2 percent of Kansas children lived in high-poverty areas. The latest data, from 2007-11, show 7 percent of Kansas children live in high-poverty areas. That's a rate increase of more than 200 percent.

“The data tell us that Kansas is moving in the wrong direction, despite the governor's stated commitment to reducing childhood poverty in his ‘Roadmap for Kansas,’” said Shannon Cotsoradis, president and CEO of Kansas Action for Children. “This is a problem we can no longer wait to address. The governor has one year left in his first term and has yet to realize his vision.”

The KIDS COUNT Data Book provides an in-depth look at how America's children are faring. Each state is ranked on 16 indicators of child well-being in four categories: health, economic well-being, education and family and community. For overall child well-being, Kansas ranks 16th.

According to the Data Book, Kansas has shown the most improvement in the health and education categories. The rate of children without health insurance decreased from 8 percent in 2008 to 6 percent in 2011. The teen birth rate decreased from 41 per 1,000 teens (ages 15 to 19) in 2005 to 39 per 1,000 in 2010. And the percentage of high school students not graduating on time went down to 15 (2009-10) from 22 (2005-06).

But the state worsened in all four of the economic well-being indicators. Additionally, the Data Book shows that more than half of 3- to 4-year-olds in Kansas are not attending preschool.

MORE



720 SW Jackson | Suite 201  
Topeka, KS 66603

P: 785-232-0550 | F: 785-232-0699  
kac@kac.org | www.kac.org

Shaping policy that puts children first

President & CEO  
Shannon Cotsoradis

Board of Directors  
Pat Anderson  
Matt Badsky  
Jeffrey Colvin, MD  
Tina DeLaRosa  
Sue Evans  
Susan Fetsch, PhD, RN  
Judy Frick  
Ximena Garcia, MD  
Susan Garlinghouse  
Becky Holmquist  
Jermee Jones  
Marta Kennedy  
Angie Knackstedt, BSN, RN-BC  
Rhonda Lewis, PhD, MPH  
Francis Mascarenhas  
Sarah Mays  
Bill McEachen, MD  
Adrienne Olejnik  
Jamie Schmaltz

A Member of Voices  
for America's Children

“The governor and policymakers are debating the best way to improve literacy outcomes for our children, but the research is clear: Literacy begins at birth, and ensuring Kansas kids have access to high-quality early learning opportunities is the best way to reach that goal.”

The KIDS COUNT Data Book features the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information is available in the newly redesigned KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org), which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being. Data Center users can create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and view real-time information on mobile devices.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

For more than 30 years, Kansas Action for Children has been shaping policy that puts children first. In the fall, KAC will release the Kansas KIDS COUNT report, which compares child well-being at the county level. Visit [www.kac.org](http://www.kac.org) to learn more.