



# Improving Indicators for Children and Families in Georgia

According to the 2007 National KIDS COUNT Data Book, Georgia has an overall rank of 41<sup>st</sup> in a comparison with the 50 states on 10 measures of child and family well-being. Georgia ranks in the bottom 10 states on six indicators; the highest ranking achieved is 26<sup>th</sup>. What does Georgia need to do to achieve a 10-percent improvement in key indicators?

## Children in Poverty

The percentage of children living in poverty is the proportion of all children under age 18 who are living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. The federal poverty level for 2005 was \$19,350 for a family of two adults and two children.

Where are we now?	What will it take to be the best?	What will it take to make a 10% improvement?	What does a 10% improvement mean per county?
Georgia ranks 36 <sup>th</sup> in the nation. 20% or 469,302 children live in poverty.	Georgia will need to reduce the number of poor children by 260,444 to have a 9% child poverty rate.  New Hampshire is the best in the nation at 9%.	The number of children in poverty in Georgia will have to <b>decrease by 46,930</b> to achieve an 18% child poverty rate.	The number of children in poverty will have to decrease by an average of <b>295</b> per county.

## Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births.

Where are we now?	What will it take to be the best?	What will it take to make a 10% improvement?	What does a 10% improvement mean per county?
Georgia ranks 42 <sup>nd</sup> in the nation. 1,181 infants die before age 1 for an infant mortality rate of 8.5 per 1,000.	Georgia will need to reduce the number of infants dying in their first year by 556 to have an infant mortality rate of 4.5 per 1,000.  Montana and Vermont are the best in the nation at 4.5 per 1,000.	The number of infants dying before age 1 in Georgia will have to <b>decrease by 118</b> to achieve an infant mortality rate of 7.7 per 1,000.	An average of <b>one infant death</b> will have to be prevented per county.

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## Teen Births

The teen birth rate is the number of births to girls ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 in this age group.

Where are we now?	What will it take to be the best?	What will it take to make a 10% improvement?	What does a 10% improvement mean per county?
Georgia ranks 43 <sup>rd</sup> in the nation. 16,191 girls ages 15 to 19 gave birth for a rate of 53 births per 1,000 girls.	Georgia will need to reduce the number of teen births by 10,729 to have a birth rate of 18 per 1,000 teens.  New Hampshire is the best in the nation at 18 per 1,000.	The number of teen births in Georgia will have to <b>decrease by 1,619</b> to achieve a teen birth rate of 48 per 1,000.	The number of teen births will have to decrease by an average of <b>10</b> per county.

## High-School Dropouts

The high-school dropout rate is the percentage of teens 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 as high-school graduates in this measure.

Where are we now?	What will it take to be the best?	What will it take to make a 10% improvement?	What does a 10% improvement mean per county?
Georgia ranks 47 <sup>th</sup> in the nation. 10% of Georgia's youth ages 16 to 19 drop out of high school (48,857).	Georgia will need to reduce the number of dropouts by 34,782 to have a high-school dropout rate of 3 percent.  Hawaii is the best in the nation at 3%.	The number of teens dropping out of school will have to <b>decrease by 4,886</b> to achieve a high-school dropout rate of 9%.	The number of teens dropping out of school will have to decrease by an average of <b>31</b> per county.

*Data Note: Child poverty rate and high school dropout rate are based on 2005 U.S. Census estimates; infant mortality rate and teen birth rate based on 2004 data. For additional data, visit [www.gafcp.org/kidscount](http://www.gafcp.org/kidscount).*