

Summary of Key Findings in Georgia



Healthy Children

- For the past decade, more than one in four infants did not have a healthy start. The rate of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds increased for all races with black infants at highest risk.
- Georgia's infant mortality rate is among the nation's worst. Black infants were nearly twice as likely to die as white infants.
- After more than a decade of decline, the rate of teen pregnancies and teen births increased in 2006 while repeat births to teen mothers before age 20 declined.
- Black male children are at greatest risk of dying before age 14 and of suffering a violent death.

Children Ready to Start School

- More than one in four babies born in 2006 had mothers with less than 12 years of education. Hispanic infants fare worse than black or white infants on this measure.
- The Georgia Pre-K program continued to grow in 2007, providing a quality education to 55 percent of 4-year-olds in the state.

Children Succeeding in School

- The rate of on-time graduation for high school students improved, but remains lower than the state average of 72.3 percent in nearly two-thirds of counties. Black and Hispanic students lagged behind their white and Asian peers.
- The dropout rate for youth ages 16-19 improved to 9 percent in 2006 from 16 percent in 2000, but remains below the national average.
- After changes in the qualification for the lottery-funded HOPE scholarships, only 38 percent of high school students were eligible in 2007 compared to 62 percent in 2006.

Stable, Self-Sufficient Families

- The percentage of children living in poverty has risen each year since 2002.
- More than half of Georgia's students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals in 2007.
- Child abuse and neglect declined for the second year in a row in 2006.

Strong Communities

- The percentage of adults with a high-school diploma or bachelor's degree improved in 2006 to 82.2 percent.
- The unemployment rate in 2007 (4.7 percent) was Georgia's third-highest since 1994.
- The crime rate remained level in 2006 after more than tripling from 2004 to 2005.



key findings

The largest improvement for Georgia on the national KIDS COUNT rankings was the decrease in the percentage of teens who are high school dropouts.