



2010 Improving Indicators for Children and Families

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 10 percent will pave the way for a brighter future for Georgia.

Children in Poverty	Infant Mortality	Teen Births	High-School Dropouts
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. Federal poverty level for 2008 was \$21,200 for a family of four.	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 in this measure.
Where are we now? Georgia ranks 36 th in the nation. 20% (or 501,892) of Georgia's children live in poverty.	Where are we now? Georgia ranks 42 nd in the nation. 7.9 per 1,000 (or 1,198) infants in Georgia die before age 1.	Where are we now? Georgia ranks 40 th in the nation. 55 per 1,000 (or 18,043) births are to Georgia's teens ages 15 to 19.	Where are we now? Georgia ranks 36 th in the nation. 8% (or 49,270) of youth ages 16 to 19 drop out of high school.
What will it take to make a 10% improvement? The number of children in poverty in Georgia will have to decrease by 51,577 to achieve an 18% child poverty rate.	What will it take to make a 10% improvement? The number of infants dying before age 1 in Georgia will have to decrease by 127 to achieve an infant mortality rate of 7.1 per 1,000.	What will it take to make a 10% improvement? The number of teen births in Georgia will have to decrease by 1,583 to achieve a teen birth rate of 50 per 1,000.	What will it take to make a 10% improvement? The number of teens dropping out of school will have to decrease by 8,666 to achieve a high-school dropout rate of 7%.
What does a 10% improvement mean per county? An average of 324 fewer children in poverty per county.	What does a 10% improvement mean per county? An average of 1 infant death prevented per county.	What does a 10% improvement mean per county? An average of 11 fewer teen births per county.	What does a 10% improvement mean per county? An average of 55 fewer high-school dropouts per county.
What will it take to be the best? Georgia will need to reduce the number of poor children by 276,734 to attain a 9% child poverty rate. New Hampshire is best in the nation at 9%.	What will it take to be the best? Georgia will need to reduce the number of infants dying in their first year by 474 to attain an infant mortality rate of 4.8 per 1,000. Washington is best in the nation at 4.8 per 1,000.	What will it take to be the best? Georgia will need to reduce the number of teen births by 11,459 to attain a birth rate of 20 per 1,000 teens. New Hampshire is best in the nation at 20 per 1,000.	What will it take to be the best? Georgia will need to reduce the number of dropouts by 31,868 to attain a high-school dropout rate of 3%. Iowa, Minnesota, and New Hampshire are the best in the nation at 3%.

Data Note: Child poverty and high-school dropout rates are based on 2008 U.S. Census estimates; infant mortality and teen birth rates are based on 2007 data. For additional data visit gafcp.org/kidscount.