



SOUTH DAKOTA KIDS COUNT  
BEACOM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
414 E. CLARK STREET  
VERMILLION, SD 57069-2390



---

**Embargoed Until October 24, 2017, 12:01 a.m. EDT**

**Contact:** Carole Cochran | [carole.cochran@usd.edu](mailto:carole.cochran@usd.edu) | 605-677-6432

## **Children of Color and Children in Immigrant Families Have High Rates of Poverty in South Dakota**

*2017 Race for Results report illustrates persistent inequities for children of color and kids in immigrant families; South Dakota Kids Count urges action to give all children opportunity*

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The Annie E. Casey Foundation's new report, *2017 Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children*, highlights various challenges hindering the well-being and success of children of color in South Dakota, especially American Indian children.

The *2017 Race for Results* report measures children's progress on the national and state levels. According to the report, there are over 208,000 children under the age of 18 living in South Dakota, 26 percent of whom are children of color and six percent of whom are children of immigrant families.

"We live in a diverse state and every year that diversity increases," said Carole Cochran, program director of South Dakota Kids Count, a Casey Foundation partner organization. "The question we need to ask ourselves is what do we need to do to support our state's children so they can succeed in their communities, their education and the workforce?"

Of the indicators measured, poverty has been identified as a leading obstacle to child well-being in South Dakota. Research has shown that growing up in poverty is one of the greatest threats to healthy child development, especially when children are exposed during early childhood or experience persistent and deep poverty.

The *2017 Race for Results* report (the second in a series that was first released in 2014) reveals improvement in nearly every measure concerning poverty when compared to the 2014 report. According to the report, the percentage of American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, white and African-American children living in families earning above 200 percent of the federal poverty level has increased. Furthermore, the percentage of American Indian children living in low-poverty areas has improved by six percent.

Although progress has been made in South Dakota, it is evident that the underlying issue of poverty remains to be addressed. Almost three-fourths of white children live in families earning above 200 percent of the federal poverty level (household income of approximately \$48,000 a year for a family of two adults and two children). Less than half of Hispanic/Latino and Asian Pacific Islander children live in families at or above 200 percent

of poverty, while only one-third of the state's African-American children live in families who have reached this threshold. About half of children in immigrant families, compared to almost two-thirds of children in U.S.-born families, live at or above 200 percent of poverty. Additionally, two-thirds of Hispanic/Latino (66 percent), African-American (71 percent) and Asian/Pacific Islander (68 percent) child populations live in low-poverty areas (neighborhoods where poverty rates are lower than 20 percent), compared to 89 percent of white children.

The 2017 *Race for Results* report shows American Indian children encounter some of the steepest obstacles to success. The report's index uses a composite score of these milestones on a scale of one (lowest) to 1,000 (highest) to make comparisons. South Dakota's index score of 220 for American Indian children is the lowest score of any group in any state across the nation. American Indian children make up the largest population of the children of color in the state of South Dakota.

The report indicates that American Indian population in South Dakota had the lowest percentage of children living at or above 200 percent of poverty. According to the 2017 *Race for Results* report, one out of five American Indian children live in families with incomes at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Additionally, only one-third of American Indian children live in areas of low poverty.

The data show the need for our state to come together and begin the conversation with community members, both tribal and non-tribal, in order to provide South Dakota leaders with an accurate interpretation of what the data mean for their communities.

"It is essential that we move forward to implement a thoughtful process for creating policies and programs that promote equity for all children in South Dakota," Cochran stated.

### **Release Information**

The 2017 *Race for Results* report will be available October 24 at 12:01 a.m. EDT at [www.aecf.org/raceforresults/](http://www.aecf.org/raceforresults/). Additional information is available at [www.aecf.org/](http://www.aecf.org/). The website also contains the most recent national, state and local data on numerous indicators of child well-being. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about *Race for Results* can use the Data Center at [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org).

### **About South Dakota KIDS COUNT**

The South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project provides a broad picture of how the South Dakota children are doing and provide parents, policymakers, advocates and others interested in the well-being of children with information they need to make informed decisions about policies and programs for children and families.

### **About the Beacom School of Business**

USD's Beacom School of Business was established in 1927 and has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) since 1949. The leading business school in the region, Beacom's programs are consistently ranked among the top business schools in the nation by Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and others for its high-quality learning experience, student success, affordability, and high-caliber of

faculty and students. Whether a student chooses face-to-face or online courses, Beacom's programs emphasize real-world experience through professional organizations, quality internships and capstone projects.

### **About the University of South Dakota**

Founded in 1862 and the first university in the Dakotas, the University of South Dakota is the only public liberal arts university in the state, with 205 undergraduate and 73 graduate programs in the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Education, School of Law, Sanford School of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, Beacom School of Business and College of Fine Arts. With an enrollment of nearly 10,000 students and more than 400 faculty, USD has a 17:1 student/faculty ratio, and it ranks among the best in academics and affordability. USD's 17 athletic programs compete at the NCAA Division I level.

### **About the Annie E. Casey Foundation**

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). KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.