

2011 KIDS COUNT *DATA BOOK* REVEALS IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON VIRGINIA'S CHILDREN

Gains of the 1990s Lost in Recession

According to data released by the Annie E Casey Foundation in its [2011 KIDS COUNT *Data Book*](#), Virginia ranks 14th in key indicators of child health and well-being.

In an ongoing effort to track the impact of the recession, there are two new indicators in the 22nd Annual KIDS COUNT *Data Book*: the number of children impacted by foreclosure and households with at least one unemployed parent. In Virginia, approximately 100,000 children have been impacted by foreclosure since 2007. In 2010, an estimated 151,000, or 9% of Virginia's children, lived in households where at least one parent was eligible for and/or seeking employment but was unemployed at the time data were collected.

“The new foreclosure figures are troubling, since housing disruptions can negatively impact other aspects of children's well-being, from emotional development to education,” says John Morgan, Executive Director at Voices for Virginia's Children.

According to this year's [Data Book](#), the economic and social gains for children that occurred across the 1990s stalled even before the economic downturn began. This year's [Data Book](#) reports an eighteen percent increase in the U.S. child poverty rate between 2000 and 2009. This increase means that 2.5 million more American children are living below the federal poverty line (\$21,756 for a family of two adults and two children). In Virginia, more than a quarter million children now live in poverty—the largest number in state history.

“This recession has effectively eliminated the progress experienced by Virginia and the entire United States in reducing childhood poverty,” says Morgan. “Given the relative economic security of our state compared to the nation as a whole, Virginia needs to dedicate more effort and resources to addressing the needs of our struggling families.”

In addition to the 10 key measures tracked in the [Data Book](#), the KIDS COUNT Data Center provides easy, online access to the latest child well-being data on hundreds of indicators by state, county, city, and school district. It serves as a comprehensive source of information for policymakers, advocates, members of the media, and others concerned with addressing the needs of children, families, and communities. By visiting the Data Center, users can download the complete [Data Book](#), and create interactive maps and graphs. Visit the new mobile site being (<http://mobile.kidscount.org/>) launched in conjunction with this year's [Data Book](#) from your smartphone, such as the Droid, BlackBerry, or iPhone.

The [Data Book](#) also highlights how Virginia's children have experienced:

Slight improvements in low birthweight births (0.3 percentage points) and the teen birth rate (from 35 to 33 births per 1,000 teen females)

Declines in children living in families without secure parental employment (now 25% of children) and children in single-parent families (now 31% of children)

No overall change in the percent of teens not in school and not high school graduates, the percent of teens not attending school and not working, and the percent of children living in poverty.

For interactive Virginia KIDS COUNT data, visit <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/va>.

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