



# 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 2007 was \$20,650 for a family of two adults and two children.	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.
<b>Where are we now?</b> Georgia ranks 37 <sup>th</sup> in the nation. 20% (or 490,381) of Georgia's children live in poverty.	<b>Where are we now?</b> Georgia ranks 42 <sup>nd</sup> in the nation. 8.1 per 1,000 (or 1,206) infants in Georgia die before age 1.	<b>Where are we now?</b> Georgia ranks 39 <sup>th</sup> in the nation. 54 per 1,000 (or 17,693) births are to Georgia's teens ages 15 to 19.	<b>Where are we now?</b> Georgia ranks 46 <sup>th</sup> in the nation. 10% (or 56,944) of youth ages 16 to 19 drop out of high school.
<b>What will it take to make a 10% improvement?</b> The number of children in poverty in Georgia will have to decrease by 42,263 to achieve an 18% child poverty rate.	<b>What will it take to make a 10% improvement?</b> The number of infants dying before age 1 in Georgia will have to decrease by 121 to achieve an infant mortality rate of 7.3 per 1,000.	<b>What will it take to make a 10% improvement?</b> The number of teen births in Georgia will have to decrease by 1,684 to achieve a teen birth rate of 49 per 1,000.	<b>What will it take to make a 10% improvement?</b> The number of teens dropping out of school will have to decrease by 5,282 to achieve a high-school dropout rate of 9%.
<b>What does a 10% improvement mean per county?</b> An average of 266 fewer children in poverty per county.	<b>What does a 10% improvement mean per county?</b> An average of 1 infant death prevented per county.	<b>What does a 10% improvement mean per county?</b> An average of 11 fewer teen births per county.	<b>What does a 10% improvement mean per county?</b> An average of 33 fewer high-school dropouts per county.
<b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Georgia will need to reduce the number of poor children by 266,322 to attain a 9% child poverty rate. New Hampshire is best in the nation at 9%.	<b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Georgia will need to reduce the number of infants dying in their first year by 508 to attain an infant mortality rate of 4.7 per 1,000. Washington is best in the nation at 4.7 per 1,000.	<b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Georgia will need to reduce the number of teen births by 11,485 to attain a birth rate of 19 per 1,000 teens. New Hampshire is best in the nation at 19 per 1,000.	<b>What will it take to be the best?</b> Georgia will need to reduce the number of dropouts by 45,464. to attain a high-school dropout rate of 2%. North Dakota is best in the nation at 2%.

**Data Note:** Child poverty and high-school dropout rates are based on 2007 U.S. Census estimates; infant mortality and teen birth rates are based on 2006 data. For additional data visit [www.gafcp.org/kidscount](http://www.gafcp.org/kidscount).