## WHO WE ARE
KIDS COUNT in Washington is a partnership between Children’s Alliance and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center to help inform young lives. Together, we gather and analyze the best emerging data on how kids are doing in our state, and then turn that information into action on issues like poverty, hunger, health care, education and racial equity.

KIDS COUNT in Washington understands that information is power. We seek a dialogue between what the data says and what communities know about kids. We put real life behind real numbers by pairing hard data with personal stories to give policymakers and the public the information they need to create brighter futures for our children.

KIDS COUNT in Washington data is highly credible, supported by the Children’s Alliance’s 30-year record of policy advocacy and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center’s reputation for independent analysis.

### ECONOMIC SECURITY
The recession has taken a heavy toll on children in our state. The number of children living in low-income families rose for the second straight year, now nearly 4 out of 10 kids are living in families that struggle to afford food, health care, housing and child care. Between 2007 and 2010, the unemployment rate among parents more than doubled; at last count, 1 in 10 children had at least one unemployed parent. A growing body of evidence is showing that even a short period of economic hardship has lasting developmental outcomes for a household’s young members.

For children of color, who make up a growing share of our state’s young residents, tough times pose a particular threat. They are more likely to be born into families that can’t afford the basics, and less likely to be well served by public services intended to protect kids from economic shock. Nearly every indicator of child well-being shows troubling disparities by race. These disparities indicate the need for greater public investments in early childhood education, food, health care and income supports that ensure all kids thrive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Total Number of Children</th>
<th>Uninsured</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders Meeting Reading Standards Statewide Test</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Students Meeting Math Standards Statewide Test</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Social Security Checks</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Dropout Rate</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SAFETY
Safe, secure environments are critical to promoting a child’s physical, social, and emotional development. Compared to their peers, children who do not feel safe at home, at school, or in their communities are more likely to have poor educational and health outcomes, and experience low self-esteem and emotional issues. Nearly one of every three sixth graders reports being bullied, and more than 1 in 10 students in each grade report they do not feel safe at school.

### RISK BEHAVIOR
Participating in risk behaviors can be harmful to a child’s physical and emotional health and development. Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, and cigarettes increases by grade through the school-age years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Students Reporting they were Bullied in School Last Year</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Mortality due to Intentional Injury</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Mortality due to Motor Vehicle Accidents</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION
From infancy through high school, children’s educational outcomes are dependent on the quality of their learning experiences. Early childhood education, in particular, has been shown to have a significant positive effect on future success, though too few children get high-quality early learning opportunities. Nearly one in five students do not graduate on time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Mathematics Proficiency</th>
<th>Science Proficiency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th Grade</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Grade</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Third Graders Meeting Standards on Statewide Reading Test, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010-11 school year</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HEALTH
Physical, social, and emotional health are critical to a child’s long-term development. Access to health care is critical to ensuring health, but tens of thousands of children still lack health coverage in Washington, with higher rates in some communities of color. Low income children and kids of color are more likely to lack regular dental care and suffer from preventable forms of dental disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent of Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010</th>
<th>Total Number of Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHAT’S THE LATEST?
KIDS COUNT is an ongoing effort to gather and analyze the best emerging data on how kids are doing in our state, and then turn that information into action on issues like poverty, hunger, health care, education and racial equity.

KIDS COUNT is based on the most recent available data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Children’s Alliance, and more.

### EDUCATION
- **Percentage of 3rd-4th-5th Graders Meeting Standards on Statewide Reading Test, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010-11 school year:**
  - **Third Grade:** 72%
  - **Fourth Grade:** 61%
  - **Fifth Grade:** 60%

### ECONOMIC SECURITY
- **Number of Children Living in Low Income Families (less than 200% FPL):** 610,804
- **Number of Children Affected by Foreclosure since 2007:** 68,000
- **Number of Children who are Food Insecure:** 382,860
- **Food Insecurity among Children:** 25%
- **Food Insecurity, All Ages:** 15%

### SAFETY
- **Children Living in Out-of-Home Care (rate per 1,000):**
  - **African American:** 15
  - **American Indian/Alaskan Native:** 7
  - **Asian:** 4
  - **Hispanic:** 3
  - **White:** 1

### RISK BEHAVIOR
- **Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (per 100,000):**
  - **African American:** 13
  - **American Indian/Alaskan Native:** 5
  - **Asian:** 3
  - **Hispanic:** 2
  - **White:** 15

### HEALTH
- **Number of Uninsured Children:** 101,614
- **Percent of Students Reporting No Preventive Doctor Visit in Past Year:**
  - **8th Grade:** 38%
  - **10th Grade:** 39%
  - **12th Grade:** 42%

### WHAT’S NEXT?
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Turning Information into Action to Improve Kids’ Lives

The KIDS COUNT in Washington partnership is supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank them for their support for this report but acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented here are those of the partnership alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

KEEP IN TOUCH

• Come see us online: www.kidscountwa.org – live in Jan. 2012
• Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/KidsCountWA

Hundreds of additional indicators of child and family well-being are available at our state’s KIDS COUNT Data Center: http://datacenter.kidscount.org/wa.